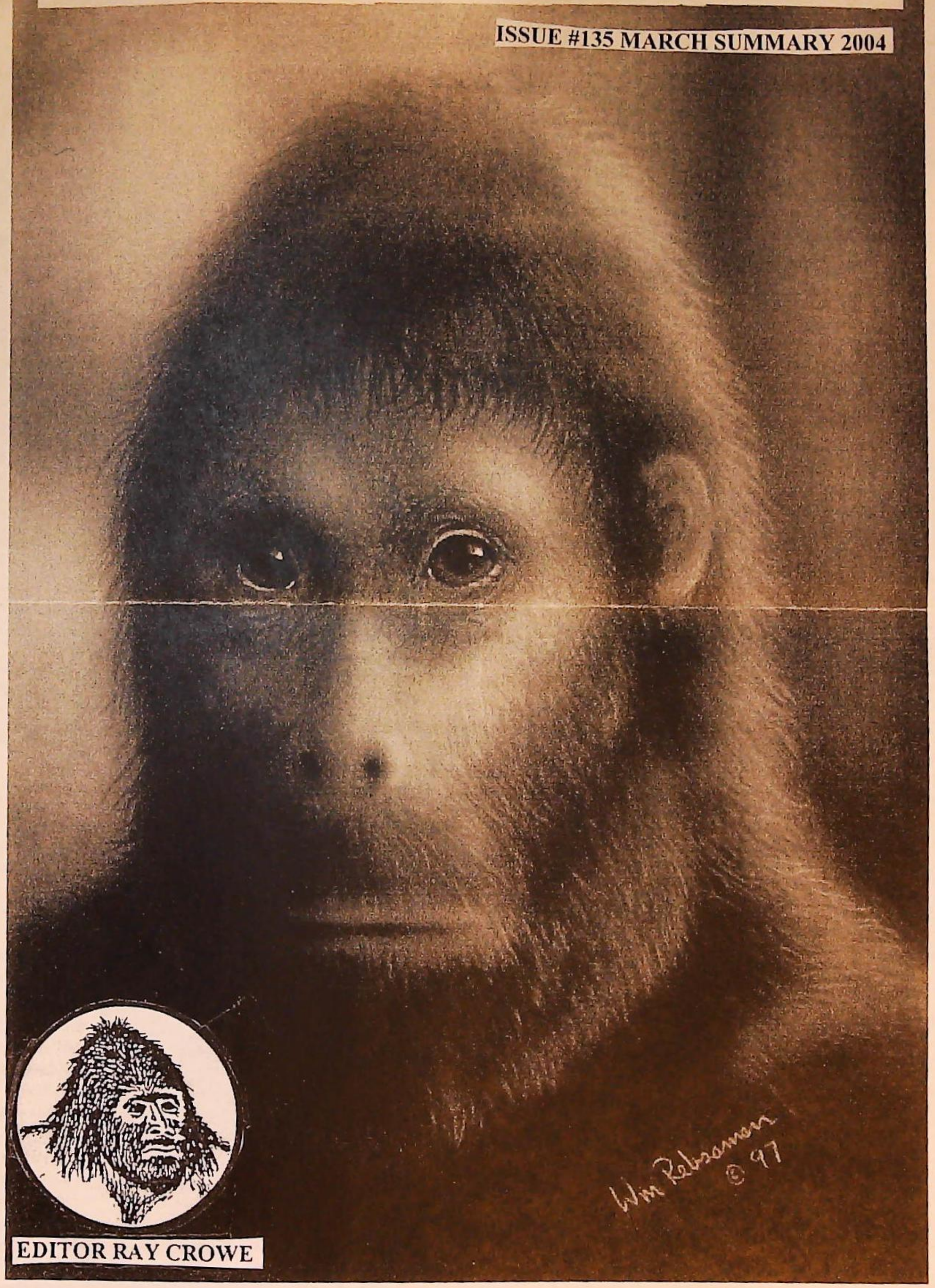
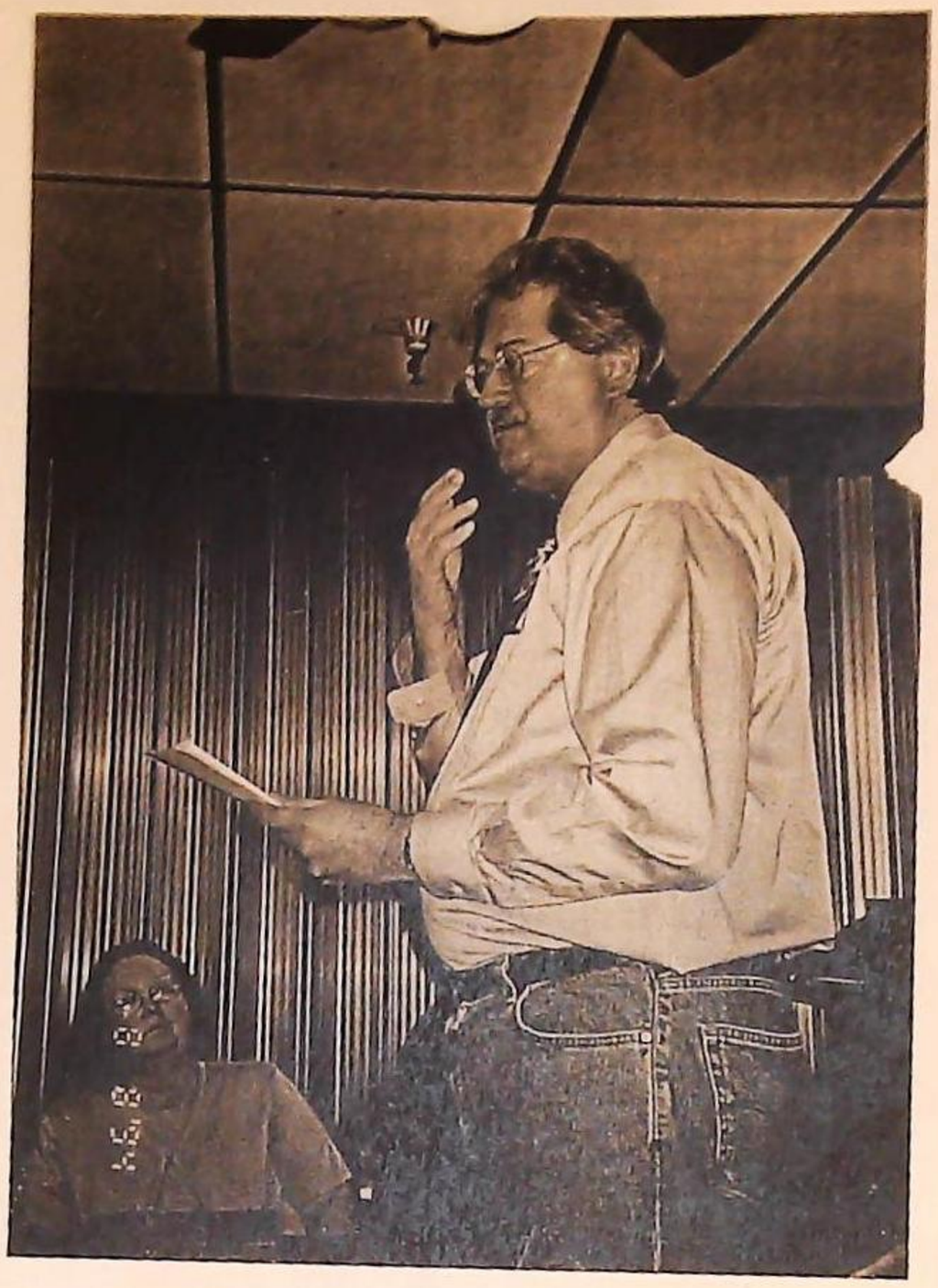
THE TRACK RECORD

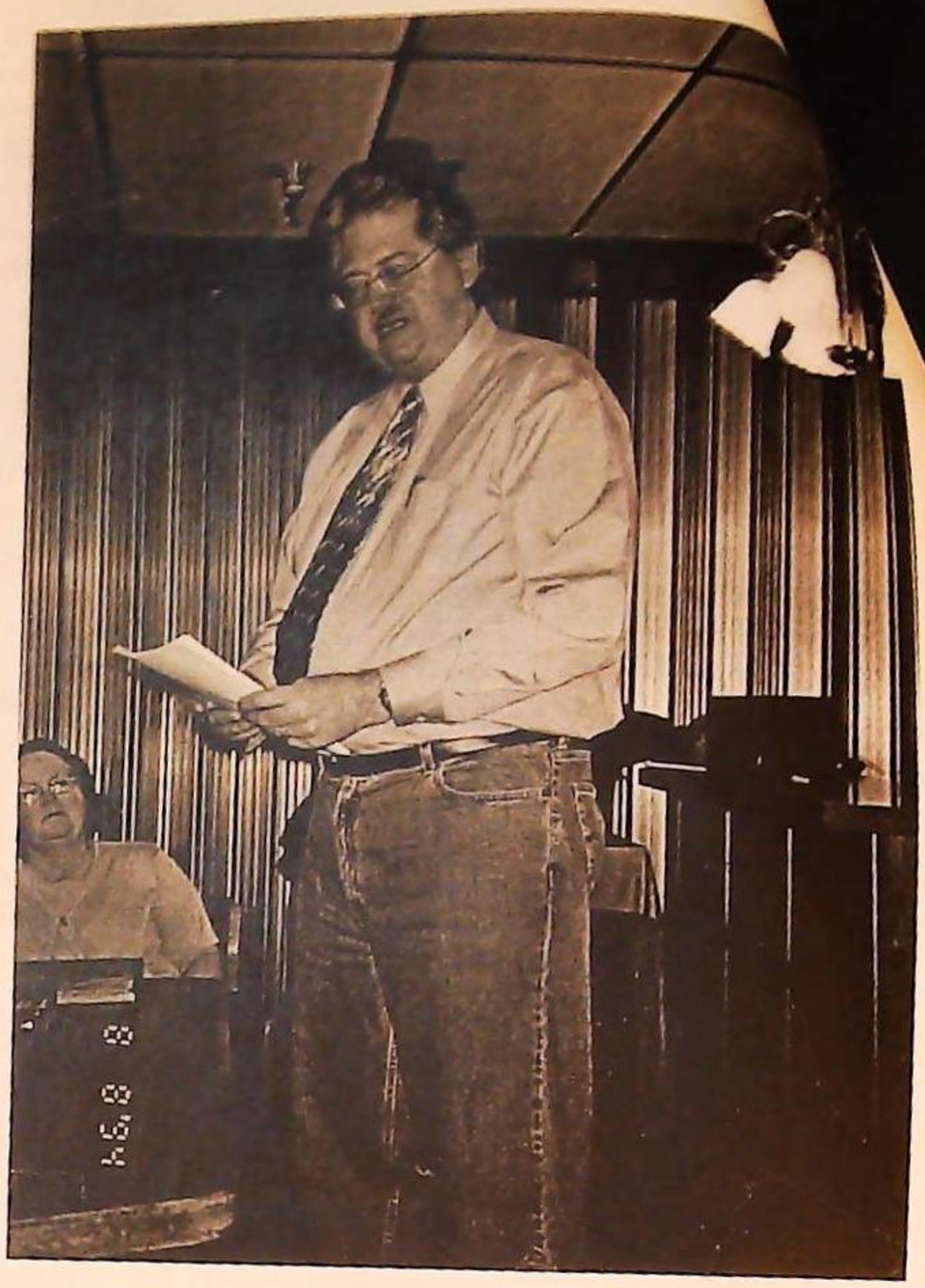
THE WESTERN BIGFOOT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #135 MARCH SUMMARY 2004



EDITOR RAY CROWE





GREG LONG READS PREPARED STATEMENTS TO MARCH MEETING OF IBS

SOME MARCH MEETING GUESTS

The Track Record

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Issue 135 March Summary, 2004, $20.00 year (10 issues), $30.00 foreign, post paid. There is no November or December summary, 225 NE 30th Avenue, Hillsboro, OR 97124-7055; Phone: (503) 640-6581 Email: RayCrowe@netzero.net (note new email address). Vice President: Patti Reinhold, 1086 46th Ave, Sweet Home, OR 97386 541-367-2359. Other board members: Terry Reams, Keith Ardinger, Diane Demers. The WBS is a tax-exempt, non profit organization, 501(c)3 your tax-deductible donations are appreciated #93-1181554 Copyright Jan 2004 InternationalBigfootSociety.com Domain name.Webmaster Robert Murdock; robert@digitaledge.com

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MEETING

REGULAR MEETING DATE IS LAST SATURDAY OF MONTH, At Dad's Club, 8608 N. Lombard, Portland. Dinner at 6PM and meet at 7PM (no indoor meeting in July, Aug., Nov. or Dec.) Next regular meeting Apr 24th at Dad's, a Saturday. All invited. Free to the public.

MEETING STUFF

* Well, this was an unusual meeting. Most of the people I talked with after the meeting were quite upset at speaker Greg Long. He seemed quite defensive, and very aggressive in his attitude towards the large gathering at Dad's Club. Mostly, the crowd appeared to react to his attitude and not the information he imparted, though, many questions were answered with, "read the book."

Mostly though, Long's message was ignored by "true believers" in the ranks...many of which were not aware of some of the Patterson/Gimlin film "problems." Those that were aware, were angry at having the problems thrown in their faces.

Many have been long aware of things like:How did the film, shot on Friday afternoon, make it to Yakima to be viewed on Sunday; or, how did the film get developed on a weekend when develop- ing studios were closed. What was

PLEASE KEEP YOUR SKEPTICALS ON WHEN READING RAY CROWE'S REPORTS

millionaire Al DeAtley's, Patterson's brother-in-law's, part in the play, besides financing Patterson... and yes, Patterson was known as a bit of a cad.

Greg has developed a trail of suspicion; starting with the veracity of Patterson, who apparently purchased a gorilla suit on sale from costumer Phillip Morris (not related to cigarette brand). This was verified by Long's personal interview with Morris, who even sent Long a copy of the advertisement of the gorilla suit on sale. Then, Patterson supposedly hired Bob Hieronimus, to wear the suit for a promised, but not paid, $1000.

The suit had apparently been altered considerably by Patterson; football helmet added to head, football pads to shoulders, feet and hands attached to suit, breasts and such. Many of the alterations were from the hide of a red horse. Bob said his mother discovered the suit in the trunk of his car, and tried the head on, as did another relative. There was apparently much talk of the exploit at a local bar. And I still have not decided what the possible role of Mr. Gimlin...near neighbor of supposed hoaxer Bob Hieronimous, might have been. Bob said he mailed the film from Eureka, which implied that the film had been exposed earlier than said to be, to have made it to Yakima in the mails.

In all, I see a lot of smoke, though no fire yet...enough that I'll probably drop my Patty belief from 90% to 75%, giving Mr. Long the benefit of the doubt for the time being.

Of interest...here's a couple of reports from 1999 Track Record newsletters:

* Track Record 83-Jan 1999

To finish off January, on the 30th, David Wasson of the Yakima Herald-Republic, (509) 577-7678, did an article on a man who has come forward to say he wore the suit in the Patterson film (number 64 Dahinden says).

Zillah attorney Barry M. Woodard, (509) 829-5600, "confirmed he's representing a Yakima man who says he wore the elaborate monkey suit in the Patterson-Gimlin film, and that his client has passed a lie detector test to prove it." The unnamed man (Bob, drives a truck for Pepsi), 58, wanted some help in negotiating a deal for rights to his tale. Supposedly, Sun tabloid bought his story, and it should be published before you read this (not by 16th). They usually pay about $2,000 for a story like that, true or not. Maybe that explains why a hoaxer would dress up in a big breasted female animal costume, and later admit he was a cross-dresser.

A retired Yakima police officer, Jim McCormick, did the lie-detector work. He is a certified polygraph examiner

and did a 75 minute test on the unnamed man, and stated that he was telling the truth. In a personal phone interview 1/29, Wasson said that question #43 of the test was, "Is it true you were in the Bigfoot suit when Patterson shot that film in 1967?" To which the answer was "yes."

Peter Byrne went to Yakima on 2/3 and had lunch with Wasson, and talked by phone to both Woodard and McCormick. Wasson said he'd been swamped with over 100 phone calls about the article...calls from England, Germany, and 12 calls from Eric Beckjord. He finally had to tell him not to call back again, to which Beckjord replies that he'll sue them. Wasson gave him his editors number and hung up on him.

As Peter Byrne has, using several methods, determined that Patty was 7'3" tall, he was concerned with the size of the hoaxer. Attorney Woodward said his client was about 6' tall, 200#. Said also that they would be having a press conference and releasing more information in a few days. Peter thought the attorney commented that the client was a truck driver. Woodward asked his client if a "suit" could be produced, and he answered, "I'll try."

McCormick when interviewed said that he thought the fellow was about 6'1", and 200 pounds. Almost the same as Woodard's reply, and both heights are far too short for the 7'3" Patty creature. Peter asked if the fellow had passed the lie detector test, and McCormick hesitated, saying, "well, I better not give you the answer to that."

Wasson interviewed Mac McEntire, a retired Yakima salesman that recalls Patterson (Roger died in 1972). He said that at parties in the old days Patterson and others would laugh at the hoax, and at the anthropologists that had said the creature was authentic.

Also, Bob Swanson, former owner of the Chinook Press in Yakima in the mid 60's, said he had printed 10,000 copies of the Patterson book on Bigfoot sightings in 1966, before the famous film. A large printing bill and sluggish book sales were reversed when the film became famous. At one time he indicated that Patterson had replied to a question after a Bigfoot sighting, that the suit "didn't itch too bad." By 1967 they had parted company.

In balance though, one of Roger Patterson's better friends at the time was Jerry Merritt. "I was supposed to go with Roger and Bob but had to cancel at the last minute." Seems his wife, a non-believer, wouldn't let him go on the now famous, trip. He said Roger went to the grave convinced he'd seen Bigfoot, Ron Olson being at his side. Larry Lund knows Merritt well, and he had said that Roger was his friend, and would never lie to him. If there was a hoax, Roger would have told him, he said. Larry and I plan to do an extensive interview with Merritt soon, and also with Ralph Mason, former business manager for Roger. An earlier interview with Mason produced piles of old business records which he allowed us to borrow and duplicate.

Before I leave this editorial, would like to mention that there has been considerable discussion about the height of Bigfoot on the Internet relating to Grover Krantz's earlier estimate of Patty's height in his 1992 book, "Big Footprints." Using a foot-to-height ratio from the 14.5 inch long foot (from track), he concluded the creature's standing height was 6'6".

Peter Byrne took a photo of Mike Hogdson, 6 foot, 160#, waist 32", in the same spot, and with the careful use of a caliper on comparable slides (making sure stumps and such the same size), determined that Patty was 7'3.5" Using comparable methods, Jeff Glickman of NASI came to the same conclusion.

By chance, Chris Murphy, noted a limb that the creature stepped on in the original film, was in the possession of Rene Dahinden. Using this as a "ruler," Chris determined that the creature was 7'3.3" in height. Krantz and Dr. Jeff Meldrum now apparently agree with the over 7' height.

Byrne, using the waist size of Mike Hogsdon, determined that the 2.5 times larger Patty, had a waist size of about 80 inches.

Byrne, recently back from Nepal, will be moving to the San Diego area. Present plans are to go on Safari in Nepal Mar 5th to Apr. 10th. He will do a film project on elephants and another trip to study man-eating tigers. His most recent trip he was stung on the foot by a scorpion and attacked, but fended off, by a deadly poison krate snake.

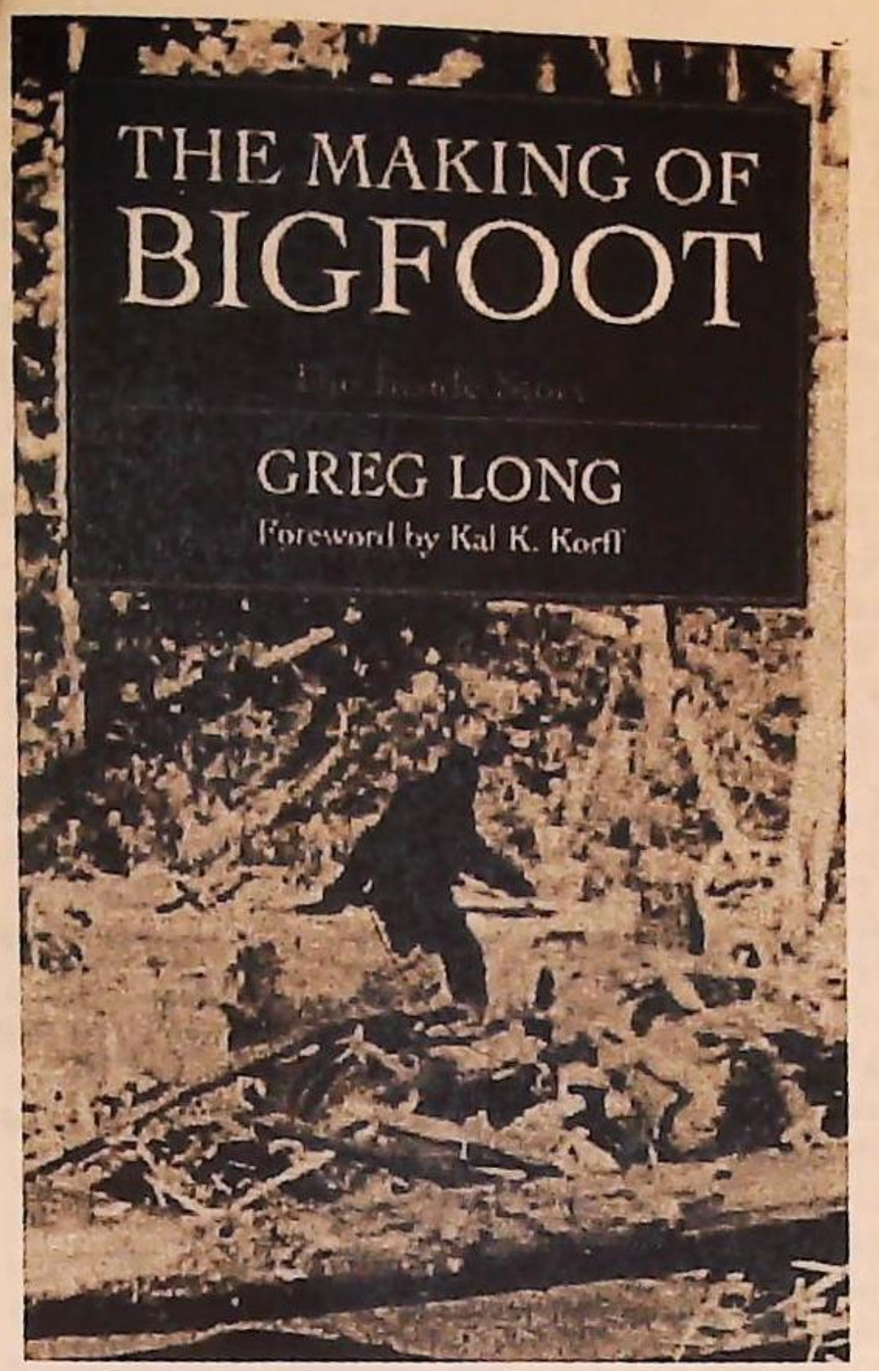
* Track Record 84-Feb 1999

Our local TV station, channel 8 news, sent reporter Walden Kirsch around with about an hours worth of questions...a minute and a half made it on the 5 PM news, Feb. 1st. He was concerned about the Yakima man that said he wore the Patterson film Bigfoot suit...a three part suit. According to Dave Wasson of the Yakima Herald-Republic (509) 829-5600, the unidentified man took a lie detector test to prove it, sending several feet of test paper to Lawson. Question #43 was, "...is it true you were in the Bigfoot suit when Patterson shot that film in 1967?" Later Internet information offered that he had supposedly sold his story via attorney Barry Weddard (509) 829-5600, to the Sun tabloid (haven't seen it yet). A later unconfirmed phone call said the man was only 6'1 inch and the attorney was concerned with criticism.

EDITORIAL

* Todd Neiss, AmericanPrimate@aol.com

I personally was disappointed in the way Greg chose to present his case on Saturday at the IBS meeting. He immediately launched into a pathetic tirade aimed squarely at his critics. How dare they question his assertions?!! The adamantly defensive Mr. Long, sweating profusely throughout the two hour session, read from a prepared script (at least 15 pages in length) without allowing any questions from the audience until the end (some 45 minutes later). Even then it was difficult to get a word in edgewise. Yours truly was eventually told that I was asking too many questions. I must have hit a nerve or two. It was difficult to idly sit by while he let loose a string of assumptions and accusations, much of which was refutable if not circumstantial at best. Not only did Mr. Long viscously attack the late Roger Patterson (who could hardly defend himself), but he also attacked a number of prominent researchers (ie. Coleman, Byrne, Meldrum, Krantz, Keating, Green, Short, etc.). No one was spared, including the audience present, as he relegated the entire Bigfoot community to that of "a cult." He chided the field (meaning you and I), for not employing a more conventional scientific approach (I thought this was supposed to be specifically about the authenticity of the P/G film...guess not). He went so far as to cast dispersions on both Bob Gilmin and Patricia Patterson. Their crime? Refusing to give Mr. Long an interview (Ah ha...they must



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be hiding something)! When someone asked Greg if he were afraid of being sued for slander and defamation, Long smirked, "Bring it on! It will just sell more books!" The only researcher that seemed to escape Greg's acidic tongue was the late Rene Dahinden, whom he selectively quoted when it fit his agenda. In a "clever" bit of salesmanship, Mr. Long would start several threads which begged an answer (usually by presenting his argument it in the form of a question), only to leave everyone hang- ing only to insist that we would have to buy his book to get the answer (pass the snake oil). In all fairness, I applaud Greg's willingness to walk into the "lion's den" on Saturday (afterward I privat- ely told him as much). Even so, he came prep-ared to insult everyone in the room...and he did.

When asked, "Where is the alleged suit?" he admitted he doesn't know. When asked if he had ever been to the P/G film site, he admitted he had not. When I asked him, "If Patterson perpetua-ted a hoax, why didn't he admit to it on his death bed?" Greg merely quipped that Roger was a pathological liar to the very end (no "GOT-CHA?"). He had the audacity to declare that the onus was not his to prove any of his assertions, but rather up to all of us to prove him wrong. To prove that a something never took place over 36 years ago is akin to proving that Venus isn't made out of Swiss cheese. To wit, if you can't prove it isn't, then it must be so because I say so.

He also teased us with the possibility that there will be an attempt to recreate the P/G film staring none other than Bob Hieronimous as the immortal "Patty!" When he announced that he would be a technical advisor on the stunt, I pressed him to insure that the suit used would be true to the original. "Greg...since you said you are going to be an advisor on this recreation attempt, are you willing to openly announce, here and now, that you will insist that the costume they use is one based upon 1967 technology?" His hesitant reply was, "I'll try."

In the final analysis, Mr. Long's seemingly well researched witch hunt, seemed to take the easy road by joining the majority of skeptics who poo-poo even the notion that such a creature can even exist. Unfortunately, the foundation of his case is based on hearsay and his self-proclaimed superior skills of judging character. I hope, for Mr. Long's sake, that someone doesn't investigate his private background for skeletons. His attempt at character assassination makes himself a prime candidate for just such an inquisition. Since he openly admitted to being privy to all of the online discussion groups (lurking?), I will assume that he will read this letter as well. So to you I say, I hope your house is not made of glass my friend. Beast Regards,Todd Neiss AmericanPrimate@aol.com
Independent Researcher/Investigator, Portland, Oregon

NEW REPORTS

On Thursday, March 25th, I (Todd Neiss) was contacted by Tim Moore of Nehalem, Oregon. He informed me that he had read a report in the Tillamook Headlight Herald (THH) newspaper (a weekly periodical which comes out each Wednesday) which contained details which appeared to be consistent with a Bigfoot (BF) sighting. In the THH's "Public Safety" section (which lists State and local police and Sheriff activity from the prior week), the following report was printed...

"March 18 - Caller reported seeing a 'big thing' on McCormick Loop 'possible human, but it had a lot of hair.' The 'thing' looked at the caller, then took off running. 'It was naked, really hairy...7' tall,' according to the caller."

I called the sheriff's office on Thursday, March 25th, to inquire if they had any additional information. A female deputy informed me that I was "wasting my time" as they had concluded that the caller "must have been either drunk or on drugs." When I asked her whether they had came to that conclusion after actually meeting with the caller, she told me that they never even bothered to respond to the call. Although she admitted to knowing who the caller was, she refused to give me his name. Next, I contacted the THH business office and spoke with the office manager, Geoff Highfield, who informed me that he would check with the woman that collects the reports for the paper to see if she could shed any further light on the subject. I have yet to hear back from him.

On Saturday morning, March 27th, I traveled to Tillamook to meet with Tim Moore who initially contacted me about the report in the THH. We met at the McDonalds Restaurant then traveled to the Tillamook County Sheriffs office to gather more information. We met with Deputy Irwin Gordon who was very open to us. I showed him a copy of the report from the THH to which he said that he had read the report but that was all he knew. He then dismissed himself to check with some other officers in the back room. He returned with two phone numbers. One was for the officer that originally took the call and the other was for the undersheriff (more on that in a minute). After he volunteered the phone numbers, he sat with us and began to tell us that, in the 1970's, he was a police Officer with The Dalles Police Department in the Columbia Gorge. He went on to say that, at that time, there was a gentleman who had set up a BF research center in The

Dalles, but could not recall his name. I asked him if it may have been Peter Byrne, to which he replied, "Yes...that was his name!" He went on to say that he had met Peter on several occasions and, over time, began to believe in the creature's existence. In fact, he mentioned that on several occasions, he had heard strange sounds while on patrol which he wondered whether it may have been a BF. Before I left, I thanked him and I gave him my contact information and asked him to call me if they ever got another call like that. He said he would.

We then proceeded to McCormick Loop to attempt to determine the most likely area the creature may have been. McCormick Loop is a two-mile long L-shaped loop that BI-passes Tillamook from Hwy 6 south to Hwy 101. It is situated in the midst of open pasture land supporting Tillamook's renowned dairy industry. As I reconnoitered the loop, there appeared to be one prime section of the loop that may have held some attraction to a BF and encourage it to risk exposure in the pastures. The east-west leg of the loop runs parallel with the Trask River about 200 meters distant. The Spring Chinook salmon run is in full swing right now and still holds a remnant run of winter steelhead. This stretch of the river is considered "tide water" which is slow brackish water where the salmon congregate to adjust from salt water to fresh water before spawning upstream. They are especially susceptible to capture and, for that reason, makes a tempting location for a hungry BF to visit. The river itself lends to a convenient avenue of egress as the banks are 10'-12' high on both sides...providing adequate concealment from all but those actually standing on the river banks. The Trask River meanders into the dense Coast Mountains less than two miles from McCormick Loop. Being around 7pm, the BF may have thought the darkness provided ample opportunity to ascend the banks for chance to surveil the surrounding countryside. I believe that it may have been under this scenario that the local witness observed the creature in the field. As the report stated, "The 'thing' looked at the caller, then took off running." This is typical BF behavior once they have been compromised.

Today, March 30th, I contacted the Tillamook County Undersheriff, Terry Huntsman, and inquired if he was aware of the specific report. He said that he was but had nothing to add. He informed me that the caller was technically a juvenile and, for that reason, he could not disclose his name legally. I have considered placing an personal add in THH to see if the individual will come forward. In addition, Tim Moore shot a 10 minute interview with me wherein I detail my background and the current investigation (including contact information). Tim is going to see if he can get the local cable company to air the segment in hopes of eliciting some additional information. Unless and until the witness comes forward, this investigation will have to be suspended. Beast Regards, Todd Neiss, Independent Researcher/Investigator, Portland, Oregon

* The comment was made that Bigfoot will drink milk from cows. The following is by Thom Powell, author of The Locals, on this interesting topic.

Thom Powell <thom_powell2002@y...> wrote: This to add to Todd's very thorough report from Tillamook, OR.(nice work Todd):

I know a retired Portland cop whose family still has a hand in the dairy business which flourishes in Tillamook County. He (Roger Hediger) told me of that same report you investigated. When I suggested a possible motive behind the bigfoot's presence in that area he was incredulous at what I suggested but he also verified that this DOES happen: Dairy cows are sometimes found to be lacking in milk first thing in the morning and for no explainable reason. He also agrees that they do not just stop lactating for one night and Hol-steins are prolific milk producers, which is why they are virtually the only dairy cow used in the dairy industry. A productive cow NEVER skips a day's milk production yet sometimes one cow or another will have very little milk or none at all.

BF researchers who cover that area, including Sue Lindley, have found multiple eyewitness accounts of bigfoots taking milk from the cows. In some cases the creatures have been SEEN stealing milk from milking equipment, refrige- rators inside open barns, and also from the cows themselves by suckling the Holstein cows. Bayanov has numerous witness from Russia that he cites in his book "Tracking the Russian Snow-man" but in his experience, it was horses, not cows that were being suckled by the almasties.

All I'm saying is there is precedent and there are witnesses both in Russia and in Tillamook County that have reported this observation in the past. True there are springers (spring chinook) and steelhead running in the Wilson River but the milk is a much easier score than fishing and likely more palpable than rotting fish carcasses. Call me crazy (many do) but it makes perfect sense to me tho' I generally assign more cunning and intelligence to these creatures than most researchers.Thom Powell Clackamas County,OR

* Sighting report: Randy Phillips, Anchorage, AK, and Cameron P. August 2002 at Night. On the edge of a lake while we were rowing on a boat in the middle. We saw coconut size boulders getting thrown from the 12 foot trees out a few yards and splashing in the water. On average 2 splashes per minute for five minutes.

* Bigfoot in Cherokee County?

By Eddie Glenn, March 3, 2004

First of all, let's be very clear about one thing: This is the Tahlequah Daily Press, not the Weekly World News. So we're not going to tell you that Osama Bin Laden and Elvis are both alive and well, and living in the woods of Pumpkin Hollow, just a few miles outside our fair city of Tahlequah. Bigfoot, on the other hand, might be. Several weeks ago, a

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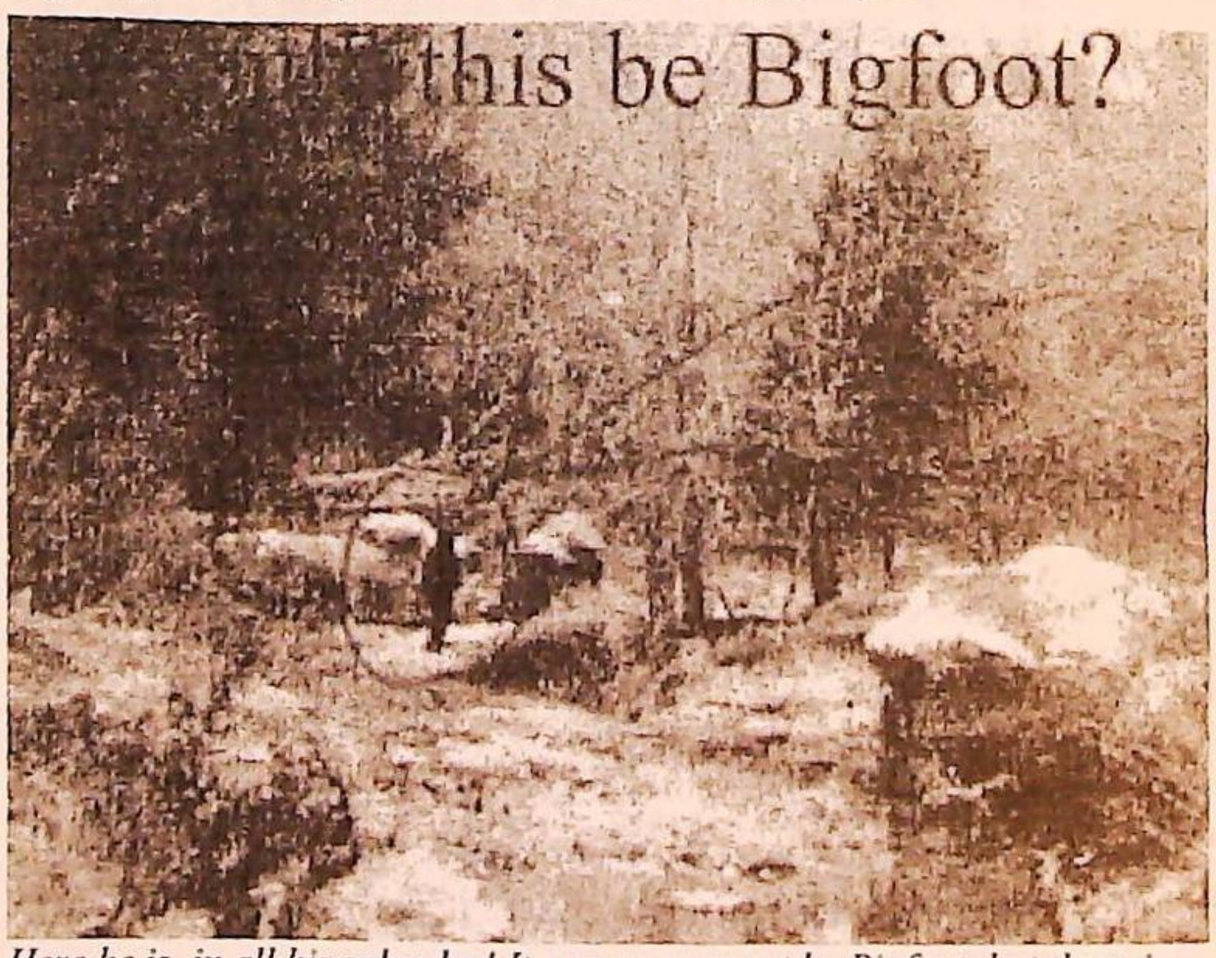
young Tahlequonian who shall remain anonymous for the time being gave a photo to a Daily Press editorial staff member. He said his mother had shot the photo in the Pumpkin Hollow area, and that it plainly showed what could only be identified as Bigfoot him/herself, right smack-dab in the middle of the picture. After some investigation, we have to admit that the aberration in the photograph - while not clearly identifiable as Bigfoot - isn't really identifiable as anything besides Bigfoot either. Of course, it could be a scratch on the lens of a camera, or a speck of dust on the film , or any number of other technical explanations. But we can't completely rule out the possibility that it just might, maybe - within the realm of all possibilities - really be a hairy, upright-walking creature that is commonly known as "Bigfoot." If it isn't Bigfoot in the picture, what the heck - no harm done. But if it is Bigfoot, or a variant thereof, it wouldn't be the first one sighted in these parts. According to the Aug. 3, 1990, edition of the Tahlequah Daily Press, a Bigfoot sighting on the east side of Eldon Hill was reported to the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office on Aug. 1 of that year. "We kind of shook our heads when we got the call, but the lady sounded serious," Jack Goss, then an investigator with the CCSO, is reported as saying. "She said Bigfoot was in her back yard. We thought she might have seen a bear, but she was really sure that it wasn't. She said it was hairy and stank really bad." The story also cites then-and-now Cherokee County Undersheriff Dan Garber, who said several residents in the area had reported similar sightings, and that several calves and sheep had been reported missing in the area. "I've known other areas to get calls like this, but this is the first time we've heard anything like this in Cherokee County," Garber said in the 1990 story. On Monday this week, Garber said he remembered that incident fairly well. "It caused quite a commotion for about a week," he said. "The people from the national Bigfoot organization called up and said, 'If you hear of any other sightings, let us know.'" The national organization to which Garber referred is the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, and according to their Web site, the 1990 Eldon incident is a "Class A" sighting. According to that Web site: "Class A reports involve clear sightings, in circumstances where misinterpretation or misidentification of other animals can be ruled out with greater confidence. There are few footprint cases that are very well-documented. Those are considered Class A reports as well, because misidentification of common animals can be confidently ruled out, thus the potential for misinterpretation is very low." The Web site also states that Cherokee County Sheriff's Deputy Joe Weavel investigated the sighting, and found foot impressions big enough to place both his feet in. It also states that two days after the initial report, an 8-year-old girl and her mother described a similar creature rummaging through a trash pile near their house. "Their dog chased it but returned with its tail between its legs. The creature was described as 8 feet tall with dark brown frizzy hair and similar to a bear, except that it was described as walking upright," states the BFRO report. Since 1990, there haven't been any other sightings - until now. Of course, if Bigfoot really does live in the woods of Cherokee County, it seems reasonable to assume that the person most likely to see him (or her) would be someone who spends a lot of time out in those woods. That someone would be Oklahoma Game Warden Brady May. May, however, has never seen Bigfoot. But he has seen a couple of bears. In fact, May said 1990 was during a several -year-long period in which bear sightings were common in Cherokee County. Most of the bears in Oklahoma are in the southeastern part of the state, but young males are often run out of normal mating areas by older, larger males. "It's not uncommon for our department to go to an area where there's a nuisance bear complaint, trap it, and release it," said May. "It wouldn't be uncommon for someone to see one around here." Still, the 1990 Eldon Bigfoot sighting is (at least in Bigfoot parlance) a "Class A" event, and according to the BFRO Web site, " Several reports near this area [have been made] since the early '70s, also possible reports near Peggs, Okla., northwest of Tahlequah, Okla." According to Garber, regardless of whether Bigfoot is a Cherokee County resident, the terrain is definitely conducive to such sightings."One thing that always seems to be consistent in these sightings," he said, "is they always seem to be in wooded areas where an animal could move around un-detected. You don't get many sightings in Ariz., or Enid [Okla.] for that matter; I mean, how many Bigfoot sightings do you hear of in Enid?"

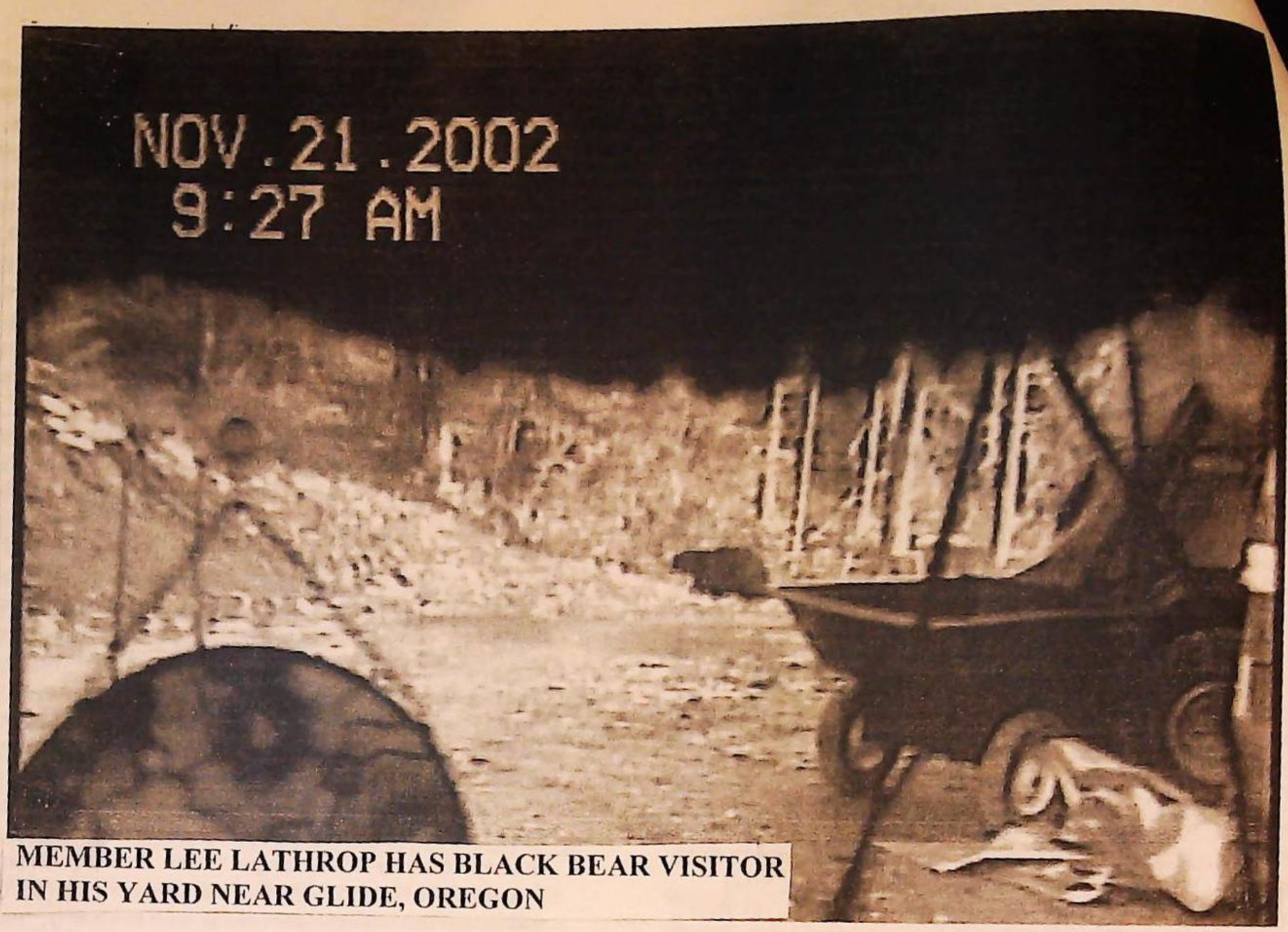
Learn more; The official Web site of the Bigfoot Researchers Organization is www.bfro.net. The page explaining the 1990 Eldon Hill sightings is www.bfro.net/gdb/show_report.asp?id=2041.



Here he is, in all his splendor! It may or may not be Bigfoot, but there is definitely a black thing that appears to be standing on a rock in the center of this creekbed, which according to the photographer's son, is in Pumpkin Hollow.

* Sighting Report sent 6 Apr 2004
Richard P., Manitoba, Canada
Sighting in July 1974, 2:30-3:00 pm
Beside the Grand Rapids Indian Reserve (SOUTH) on No. 6 Provincial Highway. This is a paved highway with ditches on each side that have a depth of about 10 feet and width about 30 feet, the highway itself is about 50 feet wide.

I had fallen asleep after lunch as I, my brothers and friends were out enjoying the summer by swimming etc.. I got up about 2:00pm and asked my mother where my companions were, she didn't have any clue where everyone went. My assumption was they went down to this old car dump just south of the reserve at about three miles away. I



MEMBER LEE LATHROP HAS BLACK BEAR VISITOR IN HIS YARD NEAR GLIDE, OREGON

began to make my way and got about quarter of a mile when I noticed this thing sitting on the side of the ditch much to the top right hand side. The animal which I thought was a bear was taking its time getting out of my way as I was throwing rocks at it and making a racket by yelling, this had no effect on the animal because it was enjoying eating berries. The creature finally started stirring and got up on legs like a human, this is the first time in my short life that I've seen this creature. I was in awe of this animal, it had to be the biggest, strongest, most powerful animal that I had ever seen. The Sasquatch stood up and looked at me (the distance between me, and the Sasquatch was about 200 feet) from me when I seen this guy. It had to be the most beautiful, toughest, fearless animal in the forest. I was so amazed by the brute size of this thing. The Sasquatch stood anywhere from about 12-15 feet tall, the arms were the size of 40 gallon drums and it had shiny light brown hair, when it crossed the road it took approximately 10 strides to cross from one side to the other. The Sasquatch stopped at the edge and turned to look at me and when it did I waved at it and it silently walked away from me. There was just a scent of must.

I was alone but went back home after the incident, I walked not ran, told my mother and she just about flipped. She told my dad to go check it out which he did and the tracks were there. My parents were my only witnesses as they seen the tracks.

* Some recent BFRO reports at:
http://www.bfro.net/GDB/newadd.asp
- March 27, 2004, Washtenaw County, MI
Near Salem, a 12 year old saw in the street lights, a black figure running down the dirt road in front of his house at 4:30PM. It was only 3-4 feet tall with long arms swaying back and forth. The area is around houses in an area of woods and farms. It was humid and warm, partly cloudy.
- January 1992 or 1993, Wood County, TX. Near Alba on the Sabine River, off Hwy 17. The creature was sitting beside a tree. The hog hunter saw the creature through his rifle scope. They studied each other from 50 yards, then it stood and walked away. It was mid-day, when the dark brown or near horse chestnut colored creature, in view for 30 seconds, was seen. The hair was long and matted, except there was no hair on the black face. The eyes on the 6.5-7 foot creature were described as big and brown, and the witness said this creature was thinner than the famous Patty figure. In another incident, the man at Douglas Feed Store said he saw a ten foot tall bear in the barn at dusk. It went out the rear door on its hind legs when he opened the front door.
- October 2002, Douglas Co., OR
A Bigfoot crossed Hwy 138 four miles west of Glide, which is 15 miles east of Roseburg, and south of the South Umpqua River. After crossing the road, it stood alongside the road 15 feet away as the witness passed the 7 foot, long haired creature, its hand on a fence post. The driver stopped and approached from 50 feet away with a flashlight, and the thing made a "God Awful" scream, starting high and turned to a low pitched threatening guttural sound.
- Dec 21, 1985, Ulster County, NY
Two ladies doing a winter hike meet Bigfoot beyond the entrance of the closed ICA Cave Mountain, near

amazing but true

Bigfoot sightings abound in West Linn and beyond

EDIT: JOE BEELART

Editor's note: For the last few months, a team of West Linn Tidings and Lake Oswego Review writers and correspondents has worked to put together stories for our annual "Perspective" magazine. The stories were all based on the general theme: "Amazing But True."

Inside today's newspaper, readers will find the culmination of that effort: 104 pages filled with stories about people in West Linn and Lake Oswego who have revealed something out of the ordinary.

Fifteen writers crafted 25 stories for the special section. In addition, we have combed the archives for unusual stories from the past. Finally, we asked our readers to submit some interesting tales of their own. While we were unable to include all of these, we tried to give a good representation of what local residents had to say.

We hope you will enjoy the offerings of the 2004 "Perspective." It represents some hard work by a group of people interested in sharing some "amazing" stories with the community.

Ray Pitz
Tidings Editor

By Staff Reporter Scott Hammers

There is a highway running through Lake Oswego and West Linn. An invisible highway, lined not with service stations but with roots and berries and crawfish to fuel the journey of those who travel along it. Travelers who do not cloak themselves in tons of steel, rubber and glass, but instead go naked. They travel by foot. Big feet.

The highway is the Tualatin River. But if those who study it are correct, it may as well be called the Bigfoot Expressway.

Thom Powell, a Clackamas County resident, junior high school science teacher, and author of *The Locals: A Contemporary Investigation of the Bigfoot/Sasquatch Phenomenon* has never seen a Bigfoot. He's a skeptic. But in years of research, he's convinced there's no reason the creature — if it exists — could not freely roam up and down the Tualatin River. As Powell sees it, the river is a natural migration route for animals traveling back and forth between the Coast Range and the Cascades. Given the elusive and nocturnal tendencies attributed to the Bigfoot, as well as the heavily wooded ravines that cris-cross the area, a large and intelligent animal could go all but undetected.

"All bets are off at night," Powell said. "We are absolutely not inhabitants of the landscape at night, so whatever's inhabiting it, we have no awareness of it, we can't do anything

See BIGFOOT, page A15

Think reports of Bigfoot sightings are amazing? Check out all the local strange and wacky goings-ons in the 2004 edition of "*Perspective*" in this week's paper.

7.

Continued from page A1

about it, and we absolutely can't document it."

But Bigfoot sightings have been documented locally. Oregonbigfoot.com, a Web site maintained by Eugene-based researchers Bob and Autumn Williams, collects witness reports from people who claim to have encountered a Bigfoot. Their site features three reports submitted by local residents.

A report from sometime between the 1950s to early 1960s recounts the experience of a young boy living near Boones Ferry Road in Lake Grove. The boy was with his brother in the attic of the family home when they spotted an ape-like face ringed with white hair looking at them through a window nine feet off the ground. The report concludes:

The two boys fled down the ladder to the ground floor and hid in the shower until their father returned. The ape was gone and their mother, a deeply religious Southern Baptist, was convinced they had seen the devil.

Fast forward to June 1987. A couple living on Troon Drive, atop the hill overlooking Marylhurst University, were settled down to sleep when a warbling scream came wafting through their open windows. The noise seemed to be coming from a cul-de-sac downhill from the couple's home, a popular make-out spot for local high schoolers. Concerned that a young girl had gotten in over her head, the husband put on his clothes and went down to investigate:

I ran down to the cul-de-sac (approx. 200 yards, and The Sound was now clearer. There were no cars, and no teenagers. It seemed to be coming from an area of greenbelt heavy in brush, blackberry bushes and Douglas Firs. The screams stopped after about 4 to 5 minutes. The Police arrived and I told them about the screams and they flashed some lights around, and said they'd check it out.

At midnight on July 12, 1995, a man and his dog were near the Willamette River in the Willamette area of West Linn:

Along a sewage stream with brambles and swamp off the freeway, lit by arc street lights, he saw a large white creature moving around. It kept bobbing up and down in different locations, and seemed to just be looking at him, moving around to different places 100-200 feet away. It was about 7 foot high, had three inch long white dirty hair, head the shape of a big dome.

The sightings don't end there, according to one local man. An amateur Bigfoot tracker, the man is now maintaining a low profile in order to protect his family's privacy, and requested his name not appear in print. Like Powell, he subscribes to the river-as-highway theory, and maintains it's easy for clever animals to hide in the city, noting that a cougar lives on the south side of West Linn.

The man knows of two additional local Bigfoot sightings, both within the last three to four years. In the first, a local siding installer was fishing with friends on the Tualatin River, near the low-head dam about three-and-a-half miles upstream from the Willamette.

Across the river, on the south side, they saw an ape-like creature crouched in the reeds, using its hand to scoop water into its mouth. The men took pictures with a disposable camera — their prints were "pretty indistinct," said the anonymous man, but "with the right equipment, you could probably do something."

The second sighting involves what the anonymous man calls a "pretty stable kid" who shot a video of a suspected Bigfoot near Wanker's Corner. The video is less than perfect, he says, but the boy's recollection of the event has convinced him the tape is not a hoax.

"The young man would have had to do tons of research over many years to come up with some details that are generally known only to enthusiasts," he said.

Both men are sure there are more sightings out there than have been reported. Many people, the anonymous man included, keep their encounters to themselves for years, fearful they'll be branded as delusional.

"If a person sees one of these things, the typical pattern is they'll sit on it for six months to six years, then they'll go 'uh-oh, I gotta find out," said the anonymous man.

Trying to "find out" often leads to more questions than answers. Even among those who believe Bigfoot exists, there's no consensus as to what it might be. Many believe it's a relative of modern apes, *Gigantopithecus blackii*, a towering southeast Asian primate that went extinct — maybe — around 300,000 years ago. Lesser-circulated theories hold that it is something altogether different from any other animal, a creature capable of altering its own physical form and vanishing into thin air.

Powell is of the opinion that any real-life Bigfoot is likely a Hominid, the scientific classifications for all animals on the "human" side of man's evolutionary divergence from the ancestors of modern apes, an event believed to have occurred some 15 to 30 million years ago.

"Neanderthals may not be as extinct as we think," he said.

The anonymous local man says he wouldn't be a researcher, let alone a believer if not for his own experiences.

"It's an interesting phenomenon. But the bottom line is you have no bones, no bodies, and no reputable, good photo[graphs] except for the Bluff Creek [film]," he said.

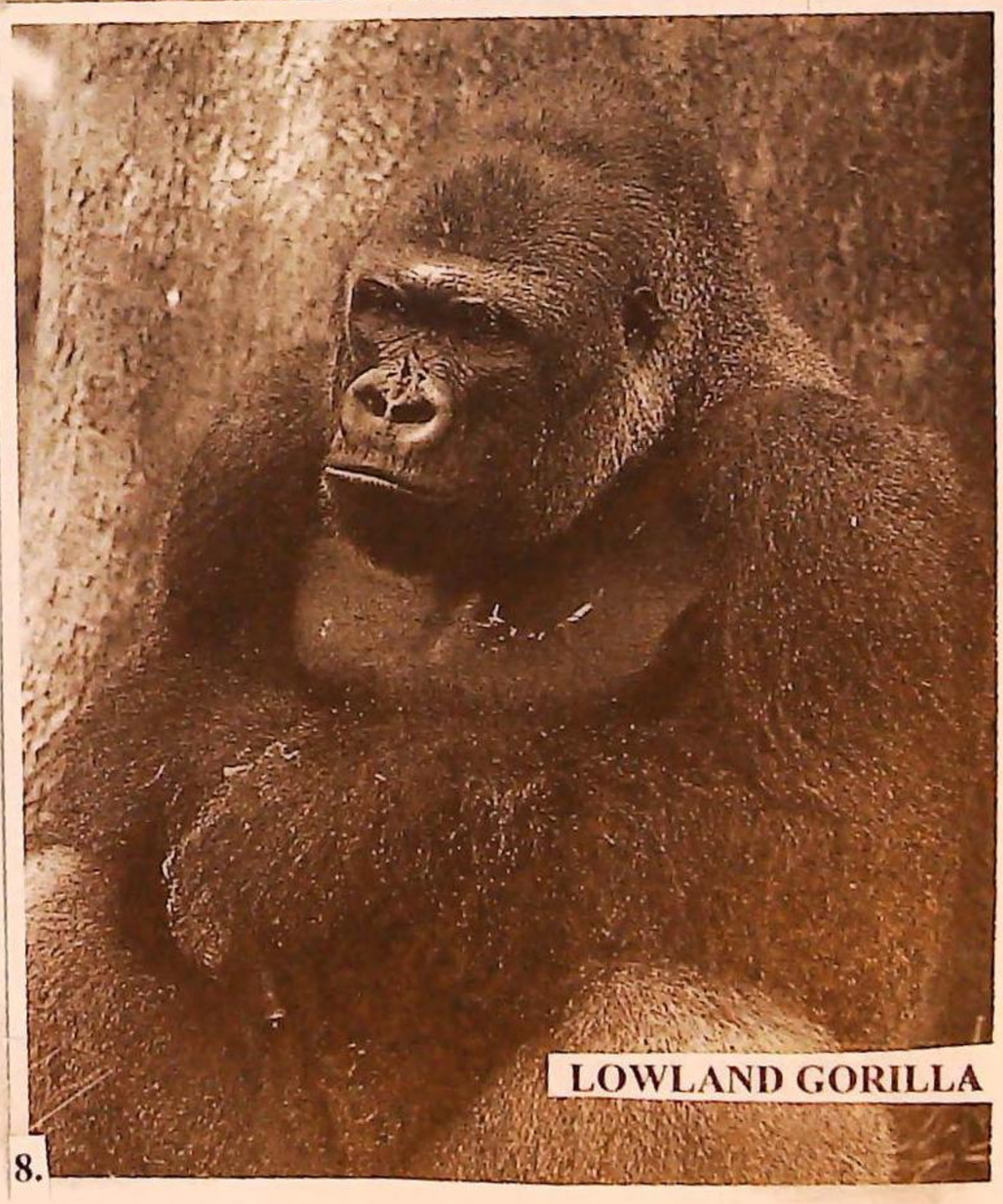
The Bluff Creek photograph[s] come from the 16-mm movie shot in 1967 by Roger Patterson near Bluff Creek, Calif. The validity of the film has been in question ever since it became public, and definitive answers have eluded both skeptics and believers.

Perhaps the truth will never be known. But the question of just what, if anything, is out there goes back far further than 1967. Powell's interviews with Native Americans on nearby reservations have unearthed stories of "stick Indians," a lost Native American tribe bearing an uncanny resemblance to the modern Bigfoot legend.

And their stories speak to a local connection, a long-lingering dispute over fishing rights at the base of Willamette Falls.

"Native American lore holds that they would fish the east side of the falls and avoid the west side, because they believed it was the domain of the hairy man," Powell said.

Bigfoot: Local



LOWLAND GORILLA

Cragsmoor, in the Shawangunk Mountains. It was in the afternoon on a sunny day, the snow a few inches deep. They saw the Bigfoot in the nearby woods. The brown, human looking creature froze in its tracks 150 feet away, then walked away fast with long strides.

- Jan 15, 1984, Licking County, OH

Two girls see a large, hair covered, baboon, in Black Hawk Gorge, squatting in the middle of Brownsville road, south of Star Route 16, and south of Claylick Bridge. It was ten feet away, and jumped out of the way of the car. It was sunny, in the low 40's, 5:30PM, and the area was heavily wooded with small ponds. A retired sheriff said a similar looking creature was seen in the same area.

- April 13, 1978, Essex County, MA

Sighting was in the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge on Plum Island. While on the Pines Trail area, the witness, another friend and two girls were taking a walk in the deserted park, and heard a loud clicking and short high pitched screams, that lasted for ten minutes and were about 100 yards away. Then at 11AM they saw a large dark figure cross the dirt road from the marsh into brush. The 7 foot black creature walked hunched over with a smooth stride. The marsh area is known for its shellfish. It was overcast and cool.

- August 1979, Hamilton County, NY

While hiking in the Adirondacks off the main trail and watching beavers, something ran on the main trail, wailing like a woman's scream. The 4.5 foot tall dark brown with lighter tipped hairs, creature was seen running for about 150 feet. The area is in thick woods with streams and ponds, and it was early morning and sunny. Also in 1979, a friend had a similar incident occur 30 miles away.

- November 1973, Grant County, OR

A hunter saw a Bigfoot near Granite (near Baker City), off Hwy 73. It was a clear and sunny day, cool, 35 degrees, middle of the day, and the hunter was atop a mountain ridge, when he saw the 5 foot creature 30-40 feet away. It was hiding behind a larger lone tree, and as he glanced away, the brown legs of the creature could be seen to the waist under foliage of smaller trees. It had no odor. The area had many smaller trees along the grassy shale slopes.

* From Bigfootforum.com. On Klamath River, CA, at Aikins Creek. Witness found four sets of tracks March 28th, in sand. Two sets were of creatures 18X6" and 16X5.5" at heel. The site had a sighting last Nov, and at night there was rock throwing and vocalizations. The area is a half miles south of Bluff Creek.

* From Bigfootforums.com

- Oregon area in Lane County to see a Bigfoot. The Upper McKenzie Valley, The areas east of Fall Creek Reservoir,(Know of two hunters, who don't know each other, who both had scary encounters above Fall Creek Res), Waldo Wilderness, and SE of Cottage Grove in the Bohemia area. Also, in the coast range around Deadwood, Triangle Lake...

- sighting reported by a guy who lives(d) in Springfield Oregon. He reportedly was hiking around in an area off of HWY126 east of Springfield. You go east of Springfield on HWY126, apparently its past McKenzie Bridge, OR. which is past Blue River from my map, then you take a right on Boulder Creek Rd. until it dead-ends. Then about a half-mile in the forest to the east I think, he said he saw one.

BFRO followed up on it, I couldn't really get a taste of what they thought but it seemed credible(?). I'm going fishing up at Blue River Resv. in about 2 weeks, I'm going to go look for the site and place some disposable tripwire cameras around the area. Keep in mind that this was roughly 3.5 years ago since the sighting but apparently the guy hasn't been back since

BOOKS

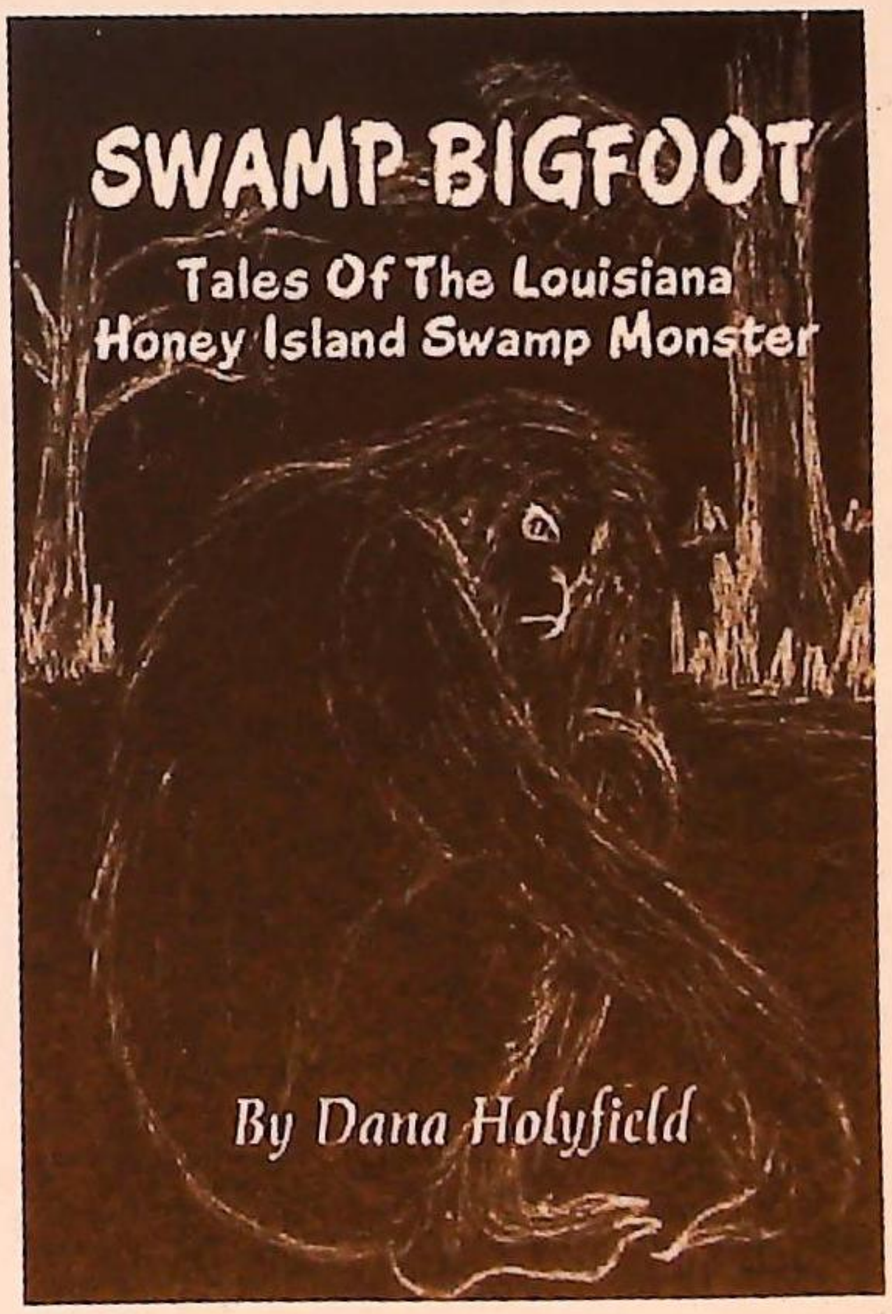
* Ronnie and wife Eldeen Roseman came to visit and brought a copy of the 1999 book by Dana Holyfield, "Swamp Bigfoot-Tales of Louisiana's Honey Island Swamp Monster."

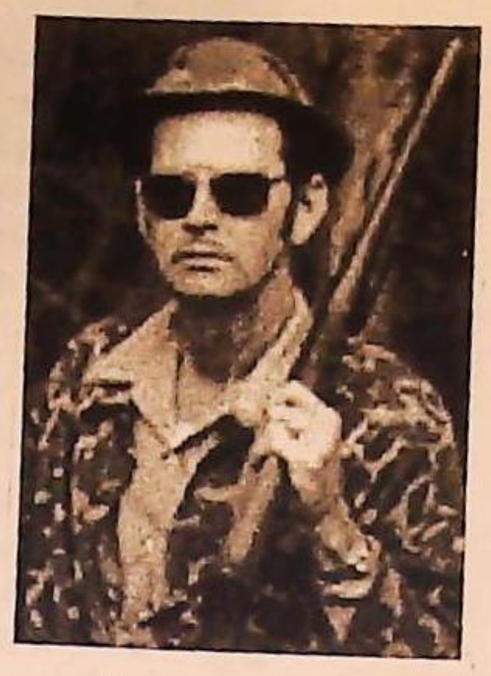
The booklet is available for $8.95+$3.00S&H. Send to Honey Island Swamp Books, c/o Swamp Bigfoot, PO Box 1464, Pearl River, LA 70452.

The 30 pages are a quick read and have several tales of Bigfoot encounters. The authors grandfather, the late Harlan Ford, first reported a Honey Island sighting in 1974, and took plaster impressions of the tracks.

My favorite tale was of "The Lady Hunter," Bessy of Pearl River, LA. While in the Honey Island Swamp, Bessy encountered a monkey in a tree, and she shot it, and the creature dropped out of the tree dead. The apparent young creature was dragged back to camp and a Wildlife and Fisheries agent came...made a phone call, and the men in the white coats showed up and removed the mysterious creature, before even photos were taken of it, and nothing more was heard of the creature.

www.angelfire.com/la2/SwampMonster





HARLAN FORD

MISCELANEOUS

* Tom Cousino. Would you be able to write some information about our "Bigfoot Central" radio show in your next Track Record Newsletter? I would appreciate it. Thanks a lot!

Where: artistfirst.com, *click on microphone to listen (Ohio) to show.

When: Tuesday evenings at 9pm-10pm, EST. At 6pm-7pm, PST.

Bigfoot Central has been on the radio for 4 yrs. now. In the last year we started having on guests instead of just the host speaking.

Our current fill-in hosts have been Loren Coleman & DL Tanner.

Starting May 1st, 2004 Loren Coleman will be our permanent host and our fill-in host will be DL Tanner.

I know you (Ray Crowe) have been on the show in the past. I hope you enjoyed yourself and will be on again in the near future.

Tom Cousino, Asst. Producer/ ArtistFirst World Radio Networks

* Noted this interesting account on the Bigfoot Forums.com, posted by "Tirademan," concerning an 1812 fur-trapper's deposition under oath. Publication, The Beaver, of Canada. Reprinted in "Fearsome Creatures of the Lumberwoods" by William T Cox, 1910, Wash-ington DC Press of Judd and Detweiler, Inc.

The Mermaid of Lake Superior

On November 13, 1812 there appeared before the Court of King's Bench in Montreal, a respectable fur-trader and merchant, Venant St. Germain, who made the following deposition under oath relative to the Lake Superior mermaid which he had once observed;

"That in the year 1782, on the 3rd of May, when on his return to Michilimackinas from the Grand Portage, he arrived at the south end of the Isle Pate (Pie Island, near Fort William), where he formed his encampment to stop for the night. That a little before sunset, the evening being clear and serene, deponent was returning from setting his nets, and reached his encampment a short time after the sun went down. That on disembarking, the deponent happened to turn towards the lake, when he observed, about an acre or three quarters of an acre distant from the bank where he stood, an animal in the water, which appeared to him to have the upper part of its body, above the waist, formed exactly like that of a human being. It had the half of its body out of the water, and the novelty of so extraordinary a spectacle excited his attention, and led him to examine it carefully. That the body of the animal seemed to him about the size of that of a child of seven or eight years of age, with one of its arms extended and elevated in the air. The hand appeared to be composed of fingers exactly similar to those of a man; and the right arm was kept in an elevated position, while the left seemed to rest upon the hip, but the deponent did not see the latter, it being kept under the water. The deponent distinctly saw the features of the countenance, which bore an exact resemblance to those of the human face. The eyes were extremely brilliant, the nose small but handsomely shaped; the mouth proportionate to the rest of the face; the complexion of a brownish hue, somewhat similar to that of a young negro; the ears well formed, and corresponding to the other parts of the figure. He did not discover that the animal had any hair, but in the place of it he observed that wooly substance about an inch long, on top of the head, somewhat similar to that which grows on the heads of negroes. The animal looked the deponent in the face, with an aspect indicating uneasiness, but at the same time with a mixture of curiosity, and the deponent, along with three other men who were with him at the time, and an old Indian woman to whom he had given a passage in iu canoe, attentively examined the animal for the space of three or four minutes.

"The deponent formed the design of getting possession of the animal if possible, and for this purpose endeavoured to get hold of his gun, which was loaded at the time, with the intention of shooting it; but the Indian woman, who was near at the time, ran up to the deponent, and seizing him by the clothes, by her violent struggles, prevented his taking aim. During the time which he was occupied in this, the animal sunk under water without changing its attitude, and disappearing, was seen no more.

"The woman appeared highly indignant at the audacity of the deponent in offering to fire upon what she termed the God of the Water and Lakes; and vented her anger in bitter reproaches, saying they would all infallibly perish, for the God of the Waters would raise such a tempest as would dash them to pieces upon the rocks; saying that for her own part, she would fly the danger, and proceeded to ascend the bank, which happened to be steep in that part.

The deponent, despising her threats, remained quietly where he had fixed his encampment. That at about ten or eleven at night, they heard the dashing of the waves, accompanied with such a violent gale of wind, so as to render it necessary for them to drag their canoe higher up on the beach; and the deponent, accompanied by his men, was obliged to seek shelter from the violent storm, which continued for three days, unabated.

"That it is in the knowledge of the deponent, that there exists a general belief diffused among the Indians who inhabit the country around this island, that it is the residence of the God of the Waters and of the Lakes, whom in their language they call Manitou Niba Nabais, and that he had often heard that this belief was peculiar to the Sauteux (Chippewa) Indians. He farther learned from another voyageur, that an animal exactly similar to that which deponent described, had been seen by him on

another occasion when passing from Pate' to Tonnerre, and the deponent thinks the frequent appearance of this extrordinary animal in this spot has given rise to the superstitious belief among the Indians, that the God of the Waters had fixed upon this for his residence.

"that the deponent, in speaking of the storm which followed the threats of the Indian woman, merely remarked it as a strange circumstance which coincided with the time, without attributing it to any other cause than what naturally produces such an effect, and which is a well known occurrence to voyageurs; that fish in general appear most numerous near the surface, and are most apt to show themselves above water on the approach of a storm.

"and further the deponent saith not.

Signed VENANT ST. GERMAIN

"Sworn before us, 13th November, 1812

Signed, "P. L. Panet, J>K>B>

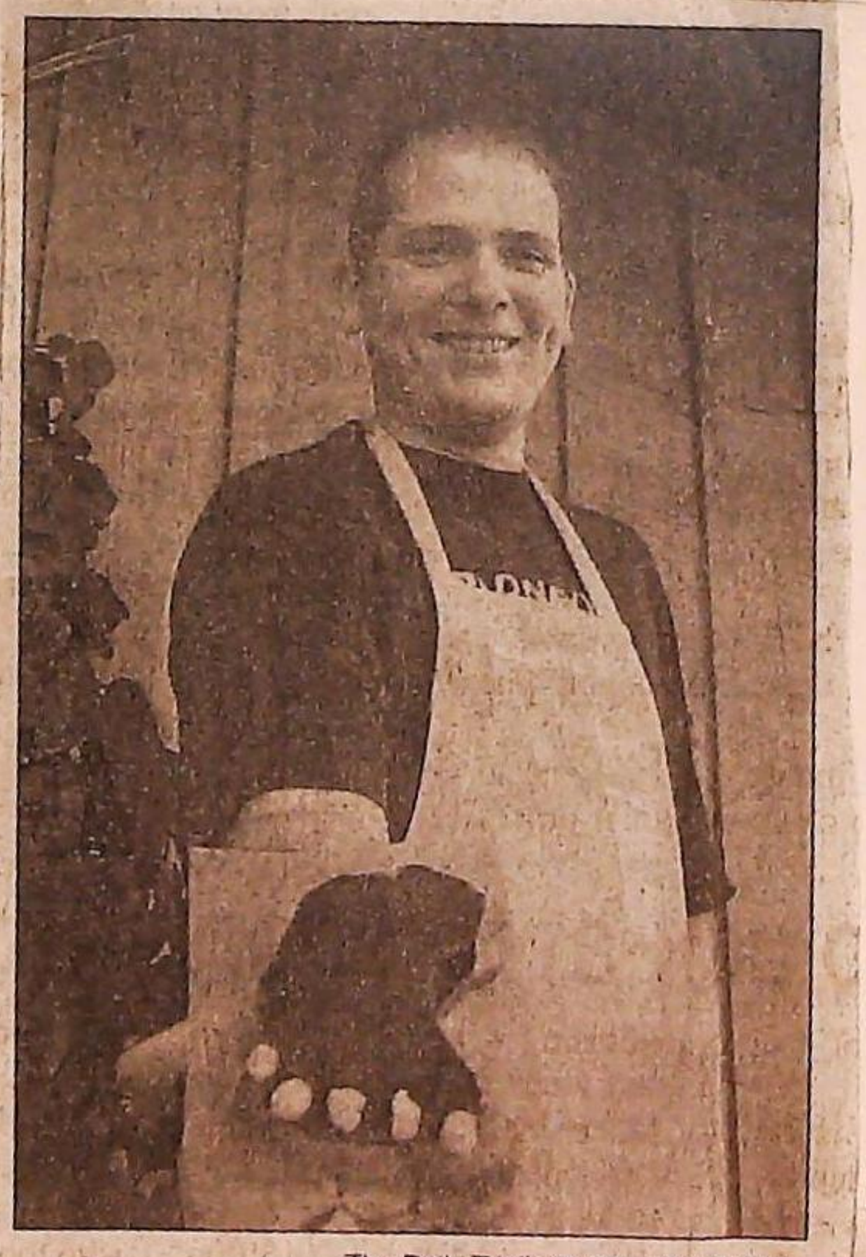
"I. Ogden, J.K.B."

IN THE NEWS-Credit Mark Blysma

* Man admits: I was 'Bigfoot' Says famed foot-age depicts him in gorilla costume March 10, '04

Â©Â 2004Â WorldNetDaily.com

Thirty-six years after the fact, Bob Heironimus' conscience finally caught up with him: He confessed to having donned a gorilla costume and appearing in the famous 1967 footage of Bigfoot. "It's time people knew it was a hoax," Heironimus told the Washington Post. For decades, the grainy film clip has fueled study and speculation about the existence of a large mysterious creature in the Pacific Northwest. "It's time to let this thing go," he told the paper. "I've been burdened with this for 36



The Daily Triplicate/Jennifer Henlon

Continental Bakery employee Brandon Martin holds the famous custard-filled Bigfoot pastry that sells out nearly everyday the bakery is open.

THE DAILY TRIPLICATE 10/18/03

The Daily Triplicate/Jennifer Henlon

A carving of Bigfoot, standing 8-feet tall, greets visitors at Trees of Mystery in Klamath.

It's out there

CR: JOCKO FOOTNOT

10/18/03 THE DAILY TRIPLICATE

Bigfoot alive and well in Del Norte as myth intertwines with science

By Jennifer Henion
Triplicate staff writer

Every place has its legends, be they animal or spiritual.

In the thick, spectacular forests of Del Norte County, the legends are powerful and not far outside the view of reality, according to those who tell the stories.

In the everyday conversations of hundreds of rural residents here, there is a legend of a hairy, 8-foot-tall beast with large feet and a skill for disappearing into the shadows of redwoods just as they're caught in eyeshot.

For them, the legend of Bigfoot is just short of provable.

From Klamath to Gasquet, stories of Bigfoot encounters echo in corner markets and around campfires.

For the fourth- and fifth-graders in teacher Jim Hooper's class at Joe Hamilton Elementary School, Bigfoot stories are a way to learn about legends and lore – what makes a legend and what role legends play in a community's culture.

"I tell them not every story is true, but a lot of myths are based on something that actually happened. Then I say, 'In Del Norte, we have a legend,'" Hooper said.

He explains the story that most have already heard at home, about the supposed large, hairy, smelly, biped animal made famous world-wide after two men caught it on film in 1967 near Bluff Creek in Del Norte County.

and in local roadside woodcarving and gift shops.

Trees of Mystery gift shop in Klamath has, by far, the largest collection of Bigfoot products in the area – probably because the owner, John Thompson is a believer.

"A few years ago, a couple of anthropology professors were sent to investigate the whole phenomenon here. They estimated from all the data and accounts they collected that there's a population of 200 or so in Klamath," Thompson said.

To the left of the giant redwood carving of Sasquatch, as Bigfoot is often called, Thompson has a copy of a plaster cast taken from the Bluff Creek sighting of Oct. 20, 1967, which resulted in the famous footage of Bigfoot.

On the shelf are rolled maps of Bigfoot sightings between Bellingham, Wash., and Sacramento, Bigfoot baseball caps, T-shirts and other knick-knacks.

"They sell out every year," Thompson said.

The Trees of Mystery parking lot is nearly always filled with cars from different states. Inside, the cashiers say the main question on tourists' minds is whether Bigfoot lives here.

Thompson said nearly everyone living in Klamath has had some kind of encounter with the beast, whether from a distance or close-up and it's hard to think everyone is lying.

"So we hear all these things and they're quite believable, despite the lack of evidence," said Thompson.

"In fact it was only about 30 air miles from Crescent City," he tells the students.

Hooper also relates local Native American stories about Ohma, a Bigfoot-like creature. Tolowa and Yurok legend says Ohmas used a trail along a creek near one of the inland Indian deer camps as a pathway to the ocean.

Because the tribes did not disturb the creatures, the legend says the Ohmas would leave them gifts of dead deer.

"Then I tell them a couple of the different compelling sightings we've had and the kids get totally engaged in it," said Hooper, who has never encountered the beast himself, but makes a hobby of researching local sightings and compiling data for the Bigfoot Field Research Organization or BFRO.

The organization is an affiliation of scientists, teachers and others who actively seek evidence of the legendary Bigfoot and organize their information on an internet Web site.

Today, the legend of Bigfoot appears in local bakeries in the form of oversized cream-filled pastries shaped like feet,

Hooper, who actively searches, yet reserves absolute belief, simply hopes people who sighted a Bigfoot will report the encounter to the BFRO Web site – in spite of the possibility of ridicule from skeptics.

The educators, scientists and researchers involved in BFRO collect sightings submitted to the Web site over the Internet, then assign the event to a researcher living near the sighting.

Hooper said the sighting or encounter is either dismissed or rated A, B or C, depending on the type of encounter and then logged on the Web site with a date, location and narrative.

This process allows only the BFRO employees to know the identity of the people reporting their encounters. Their names are not posted on the Web site.

"A lot of people, when they do have a sighting are reluctant, because of the skepticism out there and others think, if there are Sasquatch out there, they don't want them harmed," Hooper said.

Though he hasn't found the beast yet, Hooper said there is too much uncharted territory in Del Norte to completely rule it out.

"We do have a lot of inaccessible parkland woods and a lot of private land never fully explored in Del Norte County," he said.

"Until it can be proven scientifically, it's still a myth," Hooper said. "But if we can compile all of this information and it leads us to find him, Bigfoot just might walk out of legend and into science someday."

Bigfoot sightings reported

Residents in Hiouchi, Klamath claim they saw elusive Sasquatch

The Daily Triplicate/Eric Caldwell

Alex Rommel, 12, points to the area where he claims he saw Bigfoot as his sister, Sarah, 13 looks on. The two claim to have seen Bigfoot in the hills just outside an RV park in Hiouchi.

CR: JOCKO FOOTENOT

The Daily Triplicate/Jennifer Henion

Jim Hooper, a teacher at Crescent Elk, uses the myth of Bigfoot in his courses to help teach students about legends.

By Jennifer Henion
Triplicate staff writer

A Pacific Northwest legend lives on in Del Norte County.

Three children claim to have seen two Bigfoot-like creatures in the woods in the Hiouchi area this summer.

▼ Bigfoot myths abound in Del Norte County: Page B1.

On successive days last month, two men reported two separate Bigfoot sightings in the Klamath area.

The cluster of recent encounters with the large, mysterious beast said to inhabit the deep forests of the region is not a surprise, however, given the long history of what are thought to be Bigfoot sightings in this area.

In fact, according to a compilation of "legitimate" sightings reported to the Bigfoot Field Research Organization (BFRO), Del Norte County has more reported Bigfoot encounters per square mile than anywhere else in the world.

Del Norte is also the scene of perhaps the most famous piece of Bigfoot evidence ever captured. It will be 36 years ago this Monday that two Washington state Bigfoot hunters shot 30 feet of 16mm film in Del Norte County that convinced many that Bigfoot might be more than just a legend. The film was shot along Bluff Creek on Oct. 20, 1967, by Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin.

The detail of the animal's movement, facial expression and breasts captured on the film make it the most believable evidence to date, Bigfoot believers say.

Now, so many years later, compelling accounts still surface in Del Norte County like those of Alex and Sara Rommel of Hiouchi, and the two men traveling through Klamath on different days in September.

Patty Rommel said her teen-age daughter Sara was trembling after her July encounter on the hill behind the

CR^- Jacko Footnot

Sightings: Anonymous reports not accepted

Hiouchi Hamlet grocery store, near the family's home.

"My 12-year-old son Alex came in and said 'Mom, Mom, I saw Bigfoot,' and I thought 'That's good, honey. Go out and play,'" Rommel said.

"And before I knew it, my 13-year-old daughter, Sara, who is very stable and intelligent shot out of the house to see what he was looking at," she said.

Looking through a pair of binoculars, Sara said she saw a large gorilla-like animal crouching by a tree and looking right at her, Patty said. At the same moment, Sara's friend shouted to her, "There it goes," and Sara looked to watch another gorilla-like creature running down the hill.

"When she came in, my daughter was trembling and couldn't really speak. She sat right down and started drawing a very vivid, and I mean vivid, picture of what she saw, and it looked like a gorilla," Patty Rommel said.

(See *Sightings*, Page A3)

At the crack of dawn the next morning, the family trekked to the scene of the sighting. There, Patty said they found footprints in the duff of a hiking path and took photos of it.

The first of the two recent sightings near Klamath occurred on Sept. 19 at about 1 p.m., according to the BFRO Web site and Crescent City educator Jim Hooper, who helps investigate sightings for BFRO.

A 54-year-old San Francisco man on his way to Gold Beach pulled off Highway 101 north of Klamath to let traffic by, the BFRO report said. When he began to pull onto the highway again, he said he saw an 8-foot tall dirty gorilla-like creature appear next to his car.

"As I went to pull back onto the highway I heard the most horrifying scream I've ever heard and I screamed myself. I looked out and next to my Honda CRV was a filthy looking gorilla (the best I can describe it) and it instantly ran into the treeline," the man reported on the Web site.

The next day, Sept. 20, a Crescent City man reported seeing Bigfoot driving near Klamath while returning from Orick.

He reported to the Web site that he initially thought he saw a bear crouching on Highway 101.

"I got to about 50 yards and the thing stood up and my lights made a silhouette of what looked like a human," he said.

As he got closer, he said the specialty lights attached to his Jeep illuminated the creature's outline and revealed it was taller than his custom lifted Jeep.

When he got to within about 20 yards, the creature leapt off the side of the road down a hill.

"That is when the hair stood up on my neck, and I realized I just saw Bigfoot," he said in the report.

BFRO encourages any with an encounter story to come forward and report their stories. Administrators of the BFRO Web site believe that a compilation of encounter reports may lead to undeniable evidence of Bigfoot's existence.

The administrators of the BFRO are scientists, teachers and other professionals, according to the Web site.

Reports entered on the web site go directly to BFRO investigators, who determine if a report is credible enough to pursue.

Anonymous reports are not accepted, because an investigator follows up on the report to get more details and determine if an encounter is worth posting on the Web site.

Names of those who submit encounter reports do not get posted with the report, however.

To make a report of a Bigfoot encounter via the Internet, go to www.BFRO.net or dnbigfoot@edelnorte.com.

10/18/03

years, seeing the film clip on TV numerous times. Somebody's making lots of money off this, except for me. But that's not the issue â€“ the issue is that it's time to finally let people know the truth." The Post reported Heironimus makes his official confession in a new book, "The Making of Bigfoot" by paranormal investigator Greg Long. The author says he spent four years investigating the 60-second film and the people behind it. Long traced the Bigfoot costume to Philip Morris, a North Carolina gorilla suit specialist, who says he sold it for $435 to an amateur documentary maker named Roger Patterson (who died in 1972), according to the paper. The hoax was staged near Bluff Creek in Northern California, according to Heironimus. "Patterson was the cameraman," Long told the Post. "They made a gentleman's agreement that Bob would get in the suit and walk in front of the camera for $1,000." Heironimus' story is a bit different. "I was never paid a dime for that, no sir," he said, adding, "Sure I want to make some money. I feel that after 36 years I should get some of it." The news doesn't change the view of an open-minded Jane Goodall, a well-known primatologist. "She's spoken to people whom she respects who say they have seen one of these hominids," said Nona Gandelman, an aide to Goodall, according to the report. "And to many other people she respects who have heard strange calls they thought were made by Bigfoot. As a scientist, she has a very open mind about this and has yet to close the door on the possibility." An associate of the deceased filmmaker is challenging the veracity of Heironimus' story. The Post says it was contacted by Tom Malone, a Minneapolis lawyer, working on behalf of Bob Gimlin, an associate of Patterson's. "I'm authorized to tell you that nobody wore a gorilla suit or monkey suit and that Mr. Gimlin's position is that it's absolutely false and untrue," Malone told the paper.

*** "Unsuitable" Bigfoot Conclusions 8 Mar 2004**

The uncovering of hoaxes does not invalidate the evidence. IT'S DIFFICULT TO understand why the mainstream media, when a hoax is uncovered regarding a phenomenon, declares the entire phenomenon to be bogus. It's happened again with with creature known as Bigfoot or Sasquatch. Recently, a retired Pepsi bottler named Bob Heironimus has come forward to declare that he was the man in the "gorilla suit" in the famous Patterson film. And true to form, newspaper columnists picking up the story grin idiotically and shout, "Bigfoot isn't real!" It's a mindless knee-jerk reaction. They did the same when Ray Wallace's family announced after his death that he had perpetrated a few Bigfoot hoaxes. The Patterson film has always been in dispute; in fact, this is not even the first time someone has come forward to say he was part of the Patterson hoax. But even if we are to take Heironimus at his word, no fair-minded or open-minded person could say that Bigfoot cannot possibly be out there. Can the mainstream media apply the same logic to itself? Let's see... New York Times reporter Jayson Blair was discovered to have falsified many of his articles for the esteemed newspaper. Therefore, all articles in the New York Times are hoaxes. It's ridiculous logic, of course. We would have reason to doubt any articles Blair had written (although we could not even declare definitively that all of his writing was phony), but no fair-minded person would conclude that nothing in the New York Times could be believed. The same reason has to be applied here. When a hoax is revealed or suspected for a paranormal event (and there are plenty of hoaxes), it has to be considered in the context of all the evidence. When it comes to Bigfoot, there is quite a bit of evidence worthy of consideration: There are

hundreds upon hundreds of sightings reported over hundreds of years (not just since hoaxers were inclined to manufacture ape suits). There are numerous castings of footprints, some showing dermal ridges that experts determined could not have been faked. There are hair samples, the DNA of which has been analyzed and shown to be from an unknown primate. It's true that the Patterson film was often referred to as one of the best pieces of evidence for the existence of Bigfoot, and if it is proved without doubt to be a hoax, many will be disappointed. But hoaxes do not invalidate the rest of the genuine evidence. To do so is not smart, is not fair and is not scientific.

Even famed primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall has stated that she thinks it is likely that the Sasquatch is real. Any rational person who has examined the available evidence, read the testimony of reliable witnesses, and recalls that large groups of intelligent primates have in the past eluded discovery, must conclude that the Bigfoot creature is quite possible. ~ Stephen Wagner

* Myth of Marion County's Bigfoot revealed
By HAL HATFIELD Assistant Editor 03/08/2004

"Bigfoot" has not come back to live in the woods on the outskirts of Harvey. He never left. He has been living there all his life - in a house, not a den or cave. Certainly he has been hanging around for the last 25 years since he became a sensation in the Iowa media in the winter of 1978. After all these years, Bigfoot has decided to tell his story. Harvey Postmistress Catherine Van Waardhuizen was driving to her home near an old railroad trestle near Harvey on Feb. 20, 1978, when she spied what the newspapers described as 20-inch-long, eight-inch-wide foot prints in the deep snow. She went on home and told her son and daughter-in-law, Jill and Jerry Van Waard-huizen, and their two daughters about the tracks. The skeptical Jill and Jerry Van Waardhuizen took their daughters to see the foot prints and were surprised by three-foot distance between the prints, the absence of boot treads in the tracks and the lack of scuff marks in the snow where a foot should have dragged when taking a step.Jill Van Waardhuizen said she could not explain the tracks. If someone made the tracks as a hoax, she said, he would have had to walk on stilts to get through the deep snow in such long strides while leaving so few skuff marks between the tracks. According to a report in the Knoxville Journal under the headline "Does a 'Bigfoot' prowl through the woods near Harvey?", Cliff Worthington, also of Harvey, followed the tracks further, and found where the track-maker had crossed a high barbed-wire fence and a place at the base of the railroad bridge where it looked like the creature had lain down to rest. There was even a packed patch of snow that appeared to have been made by the head of whatever it was as it lay there. Shirley McCombs of Harvey later found a tuft of hair on the barbed wire where the track-maker had hurdled the fence. Yet another Harvey resident, Glen Visser, called by the Knoxville Journal "the most determined tracker," took up the trail carrying his .22 rifle, but gave up after concluding he was following the tracks the wrong way. Visser said he became confused by the deep and blowing snow. He said he would rather believe it was some big human out walking."One tracker isn't offering opinions," the newspaper said of Visser.Other area residents reported personal encounters with a Bigfoot and Matt Ver Steeg, a KNIA announcer and southern Iowa director of Bigfoot Research Inc., was quoted that there had been earlier Bigfoot sightings near Oskaloosa and Pella. The Journal said Ver Steeg said he had personally met a Bigfoot. Ver Steeg explained that "Bigfoot is a primate, but an animal - not some 'missing link.' The animal tends to establish a territory and frequents the same areas, providing its food supply remains fairly constant. "Ver Steeg said Bigfoot was primarily a vegetarian and his diet might consist of bark, left-over corn, soybeans, any kind of berries and roots. "It may turn to stealing livestock if its more staple foods become scarce," he said. He asked "anyone who has been hearing anything unusual, such as howls, yells, screams or grunts" to contact him. The winter of 1977-1978 had been a long, cold and snowy one, and Glen Visser had cabin fever. There was an accumulation of about three feet of snow, with a new fall of a fluffy few inches. Visser was in good shape, working out regularly and jogging when he could. So he strapped on a pair of military snow shoes - each about 24 inches long and a foot wide - and went for a run in the snow. Catherine Van Waardhuizen went home for lunch and the rest is Bigfoot history. Bigfoot was in the Harvey woods.The snowshoes made the oversized tracks and Visser was jogging so theinterval between the tracks was exaggerated. He picked his feet up and put them straight down - no scuff marks. The wind was blowing the snow - no tread marks. The snow was so deep that the barbed-wire fence was no barrier. "I could step right over it," he says.After packing down the snow by the trestle so that it looked as if Bigfoot had lain down, Visser took off the snowshoes and went home. He later realized that there were no Bigfoot foot prints leaving from beneath the bridge, so his wife Jeannine drove him back with the snow shoes to make more tracks. His daughter Kathy took a tuft of hair from an old bearskin and attached it to the fence.After the tracks were discovered, there were several attempts to track Bigfoot, including Visser's own failed attempt."The next day there were about a thousand cars down there," Visser said. "It was just a great time. I really enjoyed it. There had been other Bigfoot sightings in Iowa and that might have prompted me to do it."Visser also admits climbing a nearby bluff and howling like a wolf, sending dogs in the area into a frenzy. A year later, the Knoxville Journal observed the first anniversary of the discovery of Bigfoot's tracks by noting that there had been no more sightings. Kevin Cook, director of Bigfoot Research Inc. of Iowa, said that the winter of 1978-1979 had been colder than the previous one and theorized Bigfoot might have moved further south.Samples of hair from the fence were deter-mined to be from a cow.Visser and his family have kept Bigfoot's identity a secret for 26 years, so why confess now? "I didn't want to die without telling," he says. Among his newspaper clippings in one about a California man, Ray Wallace, who pulled a similar prank many years ago by making footprints of a Bigfoot with carved pieces of wood. He also filmed his wife in an ape costume to create a "sighting." Among the photos was a pregnant Bigfoot and Bigfoot eating frogs.It was only after Wallace's death at age 86 that his family revealed the secret. "He did it for a joke and he was afraid to tell anyone because they'd be so mad at him," Wallace's nephew said.The legend of Bigfoot - or Yeti or Sasquatch or Almas or the Abominable Snowman or any of many other names - goes back into history. A check of

Google on the Internet reveals 1,160,000 hits under "bigfoot." One web site lists sightings in every state except Hawaii. California has had 263 sightings. Another site lists 21 sightings in Iowa, dating back to 1869.According to one web site, Bigfoot came out of the woods the same 1978-1979

winter at the Pella Bridge near Harvey, gazed at a 10-year-old boy, and then retreated back into the woods. In 2000, a duck hunter and his son spotted Bigfoot three miles south of Pella. He was tall, had white fur and ran very quickly. Visser does not seem worried that folks will be mad at him now that his secret is out. He says Bigfoot was able to liven up the cold, snowy winter in Harvey. "People really wanted to believe in Bigfoot," he said. Visser is 69 now, but he still works out, still jogs, is still in good shape. He and his wife rode in RAGBRAI for 17 straight years and are avid trail riders. He probably could still negotiate the barbed-wire fence if the snow were deep enough. Much of the woods where Bigfoot roamed in 1978 is now crop land. But there is still plenty of room for imagination...and hopefully still some people who really want to believe. ©Journal-Express/The Reminder 2004

* The Washington Post, Washington, D.C. Richard Leiby, March 7, 2004; Page D03 Sasquatch Speaks: The Truth Is Out There. Now it can be told: Bigfoot isn't real! So says Bob Heironimus, a retired Pepsi bottler from Yakima, Wash., who reveals to the Reliable Source that he donned a gorilla costume and appeared in the famous grainy film clip that helped fuel the Bigfoot craze in 1967 and is studied by Bigfoot, Sasquatch and Yeti investigators to this day. "It's time people knew it was a hoax," Heironimus told us. "It's time to let this thing go. I've been burdened with this for 36 years, seeing the film clip on TV numerous times. Somebody's making lots of money off this, except for me. But that's not the issue -- the issue is that it's time to finally let people know the truth." Heironimus, 63, makes his full "confession," as he calls it, in a just-published book by paranormal investigator Greg Long, "The Making of Bigfoot." Long spent four years investigating the 60-second film clip and the people behind it. He traces the shaggy Bigfoot costume to a North Carolina gorilla suit specialist, Philip Morris, who says he sold it for $435 to an amateur documentary maker named Roger Patterson (who died in 1972). The hoax was staged near Bluff Creek in Northern California, according to Heironimus. "Patterson was the cameraman," Long tells us. "They made a gentleman's agreement that Bob would get in the suit and walk in front of the camera for $1,000." But, Heironimus says, "I was never paid a dime for that, no sir," and adds,"Sure I want to make some money. I feel that after 36 years I should get some of it." Backers of the Bigfoot legend include primatologist Jane Goodall, who was in Silver Spring last week to tout a new chimpanzee documentary that premieres tomorrow on Discovery Communications' Animal Planet network. Too busy to comment herself, Goodall authorized an aide, Nona Gandelman, to tell us she has read "countless books" about Bigfoot, Sasquatch, Yeti, Chinese wild men and other creatures. "She's spoken to people whom she respects who say They have seen one of these hominids," said Gandelman, "and to many other People she respects who have heard strange calls they thought were made by Bigfoot. As a scientist, she has a very open mind about this and has yet to close the door on the possibility." Bigfoot researcher John Green, a retired Canadian journalist, says the book doesn't disprove the existence of the mysterious beast. "It's all [expletive]," he told us. "There are going to be libel actions flying."Tom Malone, a lawyer in Minneapolis, called us Friday on

behalf of Bob Gimlin, associate of the now-dead Bigfoot filmmaker. "I'm authorized to tell you that nobody wore a gorilla suit or monkey suit and that Mr. Gimlin's position is that it's absolutely false and untrue." And the mystery lives on . . .

* Bill Brann, April 4, 2004
Monday the 5th Steve K. is bringing a DVD to the house so I can view it. Theirs supposedly a young Sasquatch in a tree. It seems like the gentleman that videoed it did so about two years ago, when he came across it. He sent a copy to Steve. We have a trip planned to the location on the 9th.

THE MAKING OF BIGFOOT, BY GREG LONG.

Reviewed by Peter Byrne.

Greg Long's new book, THE MAKING OF BIGFOOT, Prometheus Books, 2004, is essentially an attempt to discredit the 1967 Patterson-Gimlin film footage. The author does this with a praiseworthy job of journalistic research in the course of which, over two years, he locates and interviews just about everyone connected with the making of the P&G footage. Among these, presented in the book as principal witnesses for the defense of his dissertation, is a gentleman named Bob Heironimus, of Yakima, Washington, who claims that the film is a fabrication and that the subject of the footage is a man in a fur suit; to wit, himself.

Another, a Mr. Phillip Morris, of Charlotte, North Carolina, claims to have made a theatrical gorilla costume and sold it to Roger Patterson.

Long's research is, as stated, commendable; it would appear that all of his interviews were recorded and that much if not all of the conversations that took place between he and the interviewees was then transcribed verbatim into the body of the book. Although the result is not good writing, it is acceptable journalistic research. But after that the aim of the book fails because from there he moves into a personal analysis of the footage itself and in this proves to be amateurish, impetuous and careless.

Long believes the Heironimus story (even though, for reasons unknown, Heironimus kept it to himself for more than thirty years) and among other things goes to great lengths to attempt to explain how a six foot man-which is Heironimus' approximate height-with a waist of probably 38/40 inches, could be transformed on film into a seven foot, three and a half inch tall creature with an eighty inch waist. ** In this he does not succeed.

He fails to explain, for instance, how it is that the eyes of the creature, as clearly seen in the footage and particularly in Frame 352 of same, if those of a man with his face and head inside a gorilla suit helmet of some kind, could fit so perfectly into the eyeholes in the visible face. Likewise his attempt to explain the lack of one eye in the face of the film subject-for Mr. Heironimus apparently has had only one eye since childhood, by the use-apparently the insertion and cementing, by Patterson-of a prosthetic eye, has a ring of doubt to it.

Further supporting the shallowness of his amateur analysis of the footage is another statement to the effect that no teeth are seen in the mouth of the film subject. In this he is quite wrong. In my own personal analysis of the footage, using a first generation copy which I purchased from Mrs. Patterson for $15,000, and a further copy purchased from one-time Bigfooter Mr. Rene Dahinden, of British Columbia, for $25,000, and also in the Blitzmatch professional analysis, (for which, during my last Bigfoot professional research project I paid $75,000) three teeth are clearly seen. They are white, square and in perfect proportion to the size of the mouth.

Lastly, Mr. Long feels that he has pulled a rabbit out of his hat with the discovery of a commercial gorilla costume maker named Phillip Morris who states that he probably sold a gorilla suit to Patterson in about 1967, the year the footage was shot. (However, there are no records of the sale transaction.) Morris, looking at stills from the footage that we presume Mr. Long must have sent him, states that the suit seen in the footage is one of his commercial suits, the only difference being the smoothness of its fur, as seen in the footage; he guesses that it must have been carefully brushed and styled by Patterson to achieve this effect. However, oddly, he also states that face of the footage subject, is definitely not the face of the suit that he supplied to Patterson. He also states, emphatically, that his suit did not include breasts-as does the P&G footage subject.

Long concludes his impetuous and overconfident attempts to expose what he considers a grand hoax with two further erroneous findings. The first of these is a statement to the effect that the footage begins with its subject standing still. This clearly indicates, he writes, a scenario with the suit wearer, Mr. Heironimus, standing and waiting for his "cue," from Patterson, to start walking across the footage site. In this he is quite wrong, his skimpy examination of the footage completely ignoring two major findings made about the footage in recent years and included in my own 10,000 word analysis of the footage. (The same sent to him, I might add, in the early stages of his research when I was quite unaware, and, with others who supplied him with information, was not informed by him, of his negative intentions in regard to the footage.) One of these is what is known as the BYRNE FINDING. The other is the LUND FINDING.

The BYRNE FINDING was and is the discovery of the fact that after starting its walk, the film subject actually stops for a period of about two seconds and then continues its forward movement. And so the footage actually commences with its subject walking, *not,* as Long incorrectly states, with it standing still.

The LUND FINDING, which Mr. Long also ignores, shows that soon after starting its walk, for reasons not yet clear, the footage subject completely disappears from the screen for a period of three to four seconds and then reappears and continues its walk. Perhaps, in the course of his research, if Mr. Long had taken the time to go to the footage site, in Bluff Creek-which, to my surprise, *he never did*-he might have noticed this and at the same time gained some much needed insight into what actually went on there on Oct 20th, 1967.

Lastly, there is the question of the footprints made by the footage subject. Using artifacts collected from the site while it was still intact, plus photographs of the prints themselves, it has been possible for myself and my associates to accurately measure these at fourteen and a half inches; this hardly fits to the size of the foot of a man of six feet in height. Again, in further contradiction of Long's findings in this area, the P&G footage subject prints, as it turns out, are an *exact replica* of a fourteen and a half inch print, found, photographed and measured by me, in the same area-Bluff Creek-in 1960 and confirmed by veteran Bigfoot researcher and professional anthropologist, Dr. Grover Krantz as being *identical* to the P&G footage print; 1960, seven years before the P&G footage was shot.

In summary, let us say that Mr. Long has made an energetic if impulsive attempt to discredit the P&G footage. The reason he fails to do so, I feel, is his inability to understand the physical characteristics of the subject of the footage and, more to the point, his naiveté in the analysis of his findings, particularly in the area of the unproven claims made by his principal witnesses, Mr. Heironimus and Mr. Morris.

** The height of the subject of the '67 footage, seven foot three and a half inches, and waist size, eighty inches, is based on my own comparative analysis of the footage, using a model of known height and including field work at the actual footage site, in 1972, five years after the footage was shot and while the site was still intact and untouched by (subsequent) flooding. The Blitzmatch Report confirms this height. For the interest of readers, a further estimate on my part (but an estimate only) based on my many years of research and observation of large wild animals, would suggest the weight of a primate of this size to be in the area of 400 to 450 lbs, a weight somewhat inconsistent with that of a six foot man.

Scientists find world's oldest arm bone

Researchers digging along a rural Pennsylvania highway have unearthed what they say is the world's oldest known arm bone, once used by a slithery creature to raise itself out of a prehistoric swamp. "We're looking at our very distant ancestor," said Neil Shubin, a professor of organismal biology at the University of Chicago who worked on the discovery.

The bone formed the upper arm of an animal about 3 feet long that looked like a flat-headed salamander and lurked in swamps and shallow waters 365 million years ago. Lodged in a geological formation exposed by highway construction a decade ago, the bone will help scientists determine what kinds of aquatic creatures first ventured out of the primordial ooze to form the roots of our family tree.

Researchers say this discovery could help resolve a long-standing question among evolutionary biologists: Did limbs develop on land or in the water?

The Post-Star, Glens Falls, N.Y. | Friday, April 2, 2004

BILL BRANN

STREET WISE

THE POST-STAR'S
QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Q: What do you think of Whitehall's decision to ban the hunting of Bigfoot?

"It's kind of crazy. I think people should be able to look for him."

NICK KOUTRAKOS
Granville
Stratton Mountain employee

"I think it's fine to hunt him — anything to help tourism."

SUE SHEPPARD
Moreau
nurse

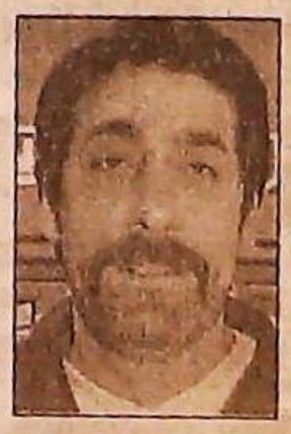
"I don't think people should bother Bigfoot. If he or she is there, they should be left alone."

PAULA O'DELL
Lake George
Old Navy employee

"I think we should explore whether it's there. You never know what finding him could mean."

CAROL CROMWELL
Queensbury
insurance adjuster

"Talking about it is a huge waste of time and taxpayer money."



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